



VOLUNTEERS TO RUN LIBRARIES

Report by David Callaghan

LIBRARIES and the archives service in Dudley will be run by volunteers under cost-cutting council plans.

A not-for-profit organisation will be set up to save Dudley Council £200,000 a year by taking over management of the sites, while paid staff have fewer hours and self-service will be encouraged.

Council chiefs have already announced that opening hours of libraries and the archives service will be slashed as the authority looks to save £20 million over three years.

The new Community Benefit Society model has been agreed in principle by the council's cabinet. Consultation between staff and public began on November 18 and will go on until February 19, 2016.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for adult and community learning, said: "These are unprecedented times for Dudley council with continuous reductions in funding from national government putting intense pressure on local services.

"As part of the council's budget reductions, libraries, archives and adult learning have to achieve a target of 30 per cent savings.

"The mutual model would be a positive outcome from a trying situation, bringing staff, residents and council officers together to deliver an innovative, efficient and sustainable way of working."

Professional

The libraries and archives service would continue to be run by professional staff, the council says, but would have community, employee and council involvement at board level.

In October, Dudley Council confirmed some library staff will lose their jobs under cost-cutting plans. They will be invited to apply for voluntary redundancy.

It was also announced that Dudley Museum and Art Gallery will close, with up to 275 jobs being lost. The council tax is set to rise following savage cuts across departments, which means less funding for Dudley Zoo and Castle.

The new arrangement would see all libraries, library links and the archive service remain open, with increased customer self-service and reduced staff hours.

Some adult and family learning may be relocated to shared venues but would continue to be funded from national budgets allocated to Dudley Council for community learning.

Dudley libraries, archives and adult learning are nationally recognised among the best in the country, having been shortlisted for awards and winning accolades.

They attract more than 80,000 people to their events each year with 23,000 people visiting Dudley libraries each week. The adult learning service provides learning opportunities to more than 6,000 adults in the borough.

BOROUGH SET TO SHOW ITS LOVE FOR TENNIS ACE



Wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whiley from Halesowen will be the first Freewoman of Dudley borough after an hugely successful year

"It is where I spent the first 18 years of my life - so to be recognised there is great." Those are the words of wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whiley who has spoken of her pride that she is to be given the freedom of the borough in Dudley.

The 23-year-old from Halesowen, who this year was awarded the MBE, has been recognised for her stunning success in the sport which has seen her claim the grand slam in doubles this year as well as her first singles title at the US Open. She will be the first woman to receive the prestigious honour.

"It was a complete surprise," she said. "I feel like I am getting more and more recognition now Paralympic sports are on the map. Since the London 2012 Olympics, every year seems to be getting better and better and I'm hoping by Rio in 2016 some Paralympians will be household names. Before London nobody knew what wheelchair tennis was."

While she has won trophies around the world, Jordanne said it was special to receive recognition at home. She joins the likes of Sir Lenny Henry in having the freedom of Dudley.

But the borough will have to wait before welcoming her home. A busy schedule leading up to the Paralympics in Rio means she is training during December before the Australian Open in January. She said: "It will probably be February before I get back home."

Her father Keith said: "We're so proud of her and this is like the icing on the cake. This has brought home how much people in Dudley are getting behind her."

The former Earls High School pupil will be officially named the borough's first freewoman at a council meeting on Monday.

RESTAURANT

1950s style diner to open at Merry Hill

A CHAIN of retro-style American diners is opening its latest restaurant at Merry Hill shopping centre.

The Ed's Easy Diner at Intu Merry Hill will open on Monday, December 7. The diner will feature 1950s decor, a menu offering burgers, hotdogs and shakes, and a jukebox featuring hits from the rock 'n' roll era. Customers will be able to watch their food being prepared in an open kitchen.

Located on the lower mall, it is the latest in a chain including restaurants in the Bullring and Grand Central in Birmingham.

FOOTBALL

Glassboys hope for glamour FA Cup tie

FA Cup fever is starting to grip Stourbridge again as tickets for the town football club's second round tie went on sale this week.

Gary Hackett's Glassboys are just 90 minutes from a potential place in the third round draw alongside Premier League giants. National League side Eastleigh stand in the way of the chance of a money-spinning tie and they visit the War Memorial ground in Ambleside on Saturday, December 5.

● Sport — pages 44 & 45

SHOPPING

Free car parking at festive craft market

A CHRISTMAS craft market will be held in Dudley town centre on Sunday.

The event will feature over 20 craft stalls with a variety of handmade gifts on offer including paintings, knitted goods, pottery, wooden crafts, jewellery and festive flower arrangements.

It has been organised by the council's Adult and Community Learning team and many of the regular market stalls will also be trading and other businesses will be open in the town.

The event starts at 10am with free parking on the day at Flood Street and Stafford Street car parks.

INSIDE

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2 **CONTENTS**

MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
REVIEWS	18
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS	21
THE FAST TICKET	25
PUZZLES	32
MOTORIZING	33
SPORT	44 & 45
CONTACT US	

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Residents act over speeding motorists

MOTORISTS have been hitting speeds almost double the legal limit down a narrow road, say residents in Lye.

Campaigners will be monitoring speeds over the course of the coming weeks along Caledonia in a bid to end the road danger.

A father and son narrowly avoided injury after a car left the road and hit a lamp post in the road around six months ago.

It has prompted members of Caledonia Residents Association to seek speeding curbs in the road.

Some drivers have been speeding along a section between Bagley Street and Thorns Road,

according to residents. Speeds will be recorded by the team but only as evidence of the number of vehicles exceeding the limit and will not led to prosecutions.

Those found exceeding the 30mph limit have their registration numbers passed to the police for warning letters to be sent.

Association chairman David Adams said it was hoped that once the concerns were backed up with evidence police and council chiefs would look at taking action over the issue.

Mr Adams, aged 45, has lived in the area for nine years, says the problem has become more apparent in recent months.

"Our intention is to demonstrate that the road needs proper enforcement of the speed limit," he said. "By using the radar device we hope to achieve this aim, as well as slow down motorists who will see us in our high visibility jackets".

"Police say that there have only been a couple of accidents here but if we can provide the evidence then we will have more to back up our case."

"They have been exceeding the limits. Sometimes 50 mph down here."

He said groups members were open to suggestions for speed calming measures to be brought in. "These could be in the form of 'sleeping policeman' style humps or a chicane being added on roads."

Big fines for not checking destination of rubbish

TWO men who failed to make sure their rubbish was disposed of properly have been ordered to pay more than £2,000 between them.

Ranjit Singh found someone on Facebook to remove his trash, which was eventually fly-tipped at Baggeridge Country Park.

Marius Mihaescu stopped and paid a man on the street to get rid of his waste, which ended up dumped near Moseley Old Hall.

Singh and Mihaescu both appeared at Stafford Magistrates Court last week on charges of failing to check the people taking their waste were appropriately licensed.

Singh, aged 45, from Belmont Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, was fined £440 and ordered to pay costs of £1,064.

Mihaescu, 30, from Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton, was fined £250 and ordered to pay costs of £884.

South Staffordshire Councillor Roger Lees, cabinet member for public health protection, said: "These cases just go to show that paying someone to get rid of your rubbish is simply not enough."

"The onus is on you to make sure the people you are paying have the correct licences to get rid of the rubbish properly."

"Our officers have been cracking down on fly-tipping in the district, and go to great lengths to find out who rubbish belongs to."

"Fly-tipping is unsightly, it ruins the countryside and can be dangerous. We will always seek to prosecute those who dump rubbish illegally in our district."

Project for 150 homes on old garage sites

AN £18 million scheme to build 150 homes on old garage sites across Dudley has been revealed.

Homes will be built on sites in Dudley, Kingswinford and Netherton over the next four years if plans are given the green light.

Cannock-based Jessup Brothers successfully bid for the four-year contract, which will involve building the properties for council tenants. It is the first time Dudley Council has signed a 'framework contract', which is part of a wider £40m scheme creating 350 homes in total.

Homes will be built on old garages in Ketley Hill Road, on the Russells Hall estate in Dudley; Lea Bank Road, in Netherton; and at Marley Road, in Kingswinford.

Dudley's housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge welcomed the deal, saying: "This framework system of tendering means the council can save money in the long-term as we do not have to continually advertise and pay administration costs for individual smaller scales projects."

"It will give greater value for money over the whole construction process. Working with one contractor over numerous projects will allow benefits to be passed down through the building supply chain, including creating opportunities for local sub-contractors and suppliers."

Significant

"The added bonus of knowing that people will be able to find work as part of this scheme is a significant attraction for us as a community council."

Jessup Brothers' managing director Clive Jessup said the firm had experience in similar schemes.

"Jessup are delighted to have been chosen by Dudley for this important framework," he said. "We have 28 years' experience of delivering affordable homes across the Midlands."

Consultation events in January are being arranged, where the public can ask questions.

As part of the agreement, Jessup will provide apprenticeships and/or jobs for the long-term unemployed.

Planning applications will be made for the separate housing schemes in due course.

Museum win top business prize



The Black Country Living Museum team receives the Chamber of Commerce award for Large Business of the Year

THE Black Country Living Museum was judged the best large businesses in the Black Country at this year's Chamber of Commerce Awards.

With around 400 people in attendance, the Black Country Chamber's awards dinner was at Wolverhampton Racecourse to celebrate local business success.

Ninder Johal, president of Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "I would like to congratulate all our winners and thank the

many more businesses who have taken part in the awards this year. Our judges were very impressed with the high standard and diversity of award entries."

"They had some very difficult decisions to make. It was great to see so many people celebrating Black Country business success."

Scoping the title of Large Business of the Year, the Black Country Living Museum is one of the UK's top five open-air museums and the leading authority on Black Coun-

try heritage. The museum has welcomed more than 8 million visitors since it opened nearly 40 years ago.

The judges said The Black Country Living Museum had turned their business around, moving from loss to profit "through an innovative and passionate approach to business".

The museum also won the title of Social Enterprise or Charity of the Year.

The Small Business of the Year was Sandwell Women's Aid.

Families helped into rental homes

HUNDREDS of people have been helped to find new homes as part of a scheme which is now in its fourth year.

More than 400 private properties have been let by landlords in the project backed by Dudley Council.

The council can negotiate with landlords so that tenants can move into the property without having to have a deposit up-front. Officials say, where agreed, tenants are given up to 12 months to raise the money. The council also guarantees to pay against damage or rent arrears up to an agreed amount.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "By reducing risks to landlords letting a property we are able to help people who would otherwise be unable to rent in the private sector."

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Accused in court over imitation gun

A MAN has appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court accused of having an imitation gun on Waterfront Way, Brierley Hill on Saturday.

Liam Palmer, 23, of Cressett Lane, Brockmoor, was remanded in custody until February 23.

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Church is tasked to start three youth clubs

FOUR new clubs youth clubs have been commissioned in Stourbridge and Brierley Hill.

Stourbridge's Chawn Hill Church has secured the Dudley Council contracts for both of those areas and are now setting up clubs at churches in Norton, Brockmoor and soon in Pensnett too.

The move follows severe cuts to youth provision by Dudley Council.

Chawn Hill Church has a strong track record with young people and has been employing youth workers since 1990. In the last ten years it has worked with others to set up the Look Out Project in Pensnett, Black Country Food Bank, Stourbridge Street Pastors, Love Stourbridge and Stourbridge Life Centre Debt Advice.

Danny Brierly, operations manager at Chawn Hill Church with youth group Ignite said: "I'm delighted that we've been commissioned for next 18 months by Dudley Youth Service to run during term-time four weekly youth clubs across the Stourbridge and Brierley Hill areas. During three half-terms we'll also be running sports, theatre and dance academies with Black Country organisations, Saltmine and YTC.

"As well as providing a range of fun activities and safe spaces for young people to hang out, our volunteer and employed youth workers will also be helping support young peoples' personal and social development. Everything from communication skills, and campaigning, to getting a job."

New lease secures library's future

A VILLAGE library which had been under threat of closure has had its long term future secured after a new lease was signed.

Hagley Library has been protected after parish councillors signed a 10-year lease with Worcestershire County Council chiefs.

Parish councillors will oversee the building's upkeep in exchange for the library in Worcester Street staying open.

Campaigners pleaded to save the library after its future was put in doubt after the county council launched a cost-cutting review..

Hagley Parish Council chairman, Steve Colella, said they were now looking for volunteers to keep the library going into the future.

Three swans found dead at reserve

THREE swans have been found dead at a nature reserve in Dudley, sparking an appeal from the RSPCA for information. The swans, all aged around two, were found by a visitor to Fens Pool Nature Reserve.

Tributes pour in for public servant Mary



Councillor Mary Roberts

A COUNCILLOR who has served Dudley residents for the past eight years has died after a long illness.

Tributes have been paid to 'loved and respected' Mary Roberts, who had represented the St James's ward since 2007.

Councillor Roberts, who was re-elected to the ward in 2011 and in May this year, was vice-chairwoman of the authority's audit and standards committee.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho said she would be missed by her colleagues at the authority. "Our thoughts are with Mary's closest friends and family at this very sad time," he said.

"Mary served the council with great honour over the best part of the last decade and she will certainly be missed by all."

Councillor Roberts was a member of the council's health scrutiny committee, licensing and safety committee and the Castle and Priory, St Thomas's and St James's community forum.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "Mary spent her whole life in the service of others as a great teacher and a wonderful councillor. Many people will have led more fulfilled lives as a result of her work as a teacher and she helped hun-

dreds of families and community groups during her eight years on the council.

"She was loved and respected by councillors from all parties and she'll be missed by us all. I'll never forget the encouragement, advice, help and support she always gave me.

"Many people in Dudley have lost a very good friend."

Mrs Roberts had taught at Princes End Primary School, in Tipton.

Her daughter, Paula, a GP, said her mother was dedicated to her community work and her family, including two granddaughters.

Jail for drink-driver who crashed into police cars

A BANNED drink-driver who crashed into two police cars during a terrifying 15-minute high speed chase is starting a 15-month jail sentence.

Edward Preece had a string of previous convictions for motoring offences and was at the wheel of a stolen Vauxhall Vectra on false plates, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 36-year-old year old ignored a request to stop near the Merry Hill shopping centre after police spotted the vehicle on March 23, four days after it had been reported as missing from a lock up garage in Dudley.

He raced through a string of residential streets in Brierley Hill at twice the 30mph speed limit and reversed into the pursuing police car twice, said Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting.

Preece, who had 19 previous convictions involving 34 offences, also charged through a red traffic light and went the wrong way round a traffic island. He finally smashed head on into another police car travelling in the opposite direction in a bid to block his path in Whitegates Road, Brierley Hill.

Whiplash

Pc Ian Adams suffered whiplash injuries in the crash.

Preece gave a reading of blew 68 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath when tested after the chase. The limit is 35.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, conceded: "He accepts this was a disgraceful piece of driving and realises he is fortunate that nobody was seriously injured or worse.

"He has an appalling record that demonstrates his inability to abide by the rules of the road even when banned from doing so by a court order. The car had been stolen by others. "He was drinking with people who loaned him the vehicle to drive to the shops and panicked when he saw the police because he knew he should not have been driving."

Preece from Parkes Lane, Princess End, Tipton, admitted dangerous driving, driving while banned and drink driving.

He was jailed for 15 months and further disqualified from driving for four years on release.

Judge Mark Eades said: "You behaved like a hooligan tearaway teenager and you can expect little mercy when you have continued to act like that for so long."

Croquet club shocked by new fee



Facing a huge bill to maintain greens — club chairman Phil Bate with Stourbridge Croquet Club members

MEMBERS of a croquet club fear they may have to fold following controversial plans to increase bowling green maintenance fees across the borough.

It means that players at Stourbridge Croquet Club could be left maintaining the green themselves or paying up to £12,000 in maintenance fees as cash-strapped Dudley Council tries to save £20 million by 2018.

Stourbridge Croquet Club,

based at Mary Stevens Park, is one of the eight greens across the borough facing a price hike

Phil Bate, 66, who has been chairman of the club for the five years, said members were devastated that they could potentially be left with maintenance costs.

"It is ridiculous," he said. "Paying £12,000 a year for maintenance of lawns is just something we could not do. I understand that they need to make savings but it

feels like they are targeting the wrong people. There are elderly members at both the croquet and bowling club that see coming out to play as the highlight of their week."

The club currently has 17 members, all of them above the age of 55, including two in their 80s.

Members are hopeful that covenants dating back to the 1920s could oblige the council to maintain the greens.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lots of laughs at comedy clubs

BIRMINGHAM-BORN comedian and TV actress Jo Enright, who has appeared in Trolled, Life's Too Short and The Job Lot, is top of the bill at Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club at Katie Fitzgerald's pub in Envilve Street, Stourbridge, on Friday, December 4, from 8.30pm. Tickets £10, see www.WeGotTickets.com website.

"Kum-n-avaloff" comedy night is at Stourbridge Town Hall on December 3. Every first Thursday of the month it showcases new comedy talent with curry included in the ticket price. Tickets £8.75. Call (01384) 812960.

Students watched top politics debate

STUDENTS from a Stourbridge college were given the chance to see the Prime Minister up close in the House of Commons.

The group from the King Edward VI College took their seats in the public gallery to see David Cameron face Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn across the dispatch box during Prime Minister's Questions last Wednesday.

They were invited to watch the weekly debate by Dudley North MP Ian Austin. The Labour MP said: "I want to make this a regular event so local students can be inspired."

Crafts made be elderly as gifts

A GRAND Christmas fair which aims to raise money for Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen is on Saturday.

The event is from 11am at Age Concern, The Elton Centre at St John's, St John's Road, and will be raising awareness of the services available at the centre, whilst also raising money to support their activities.

Handmade crafts produced by those attending the centre's craft classes are among the items on sale. Entrance is 30p.

Village hall is hosting Christmas fair and sale

A CHRISTMAS table top sale and fair is taking place in a village hall next month.

Stourton Village Hall, in Bridgnorth Road, near Stourbridge, is hosting the festive fundraiser on December 5.

There will be a variety of stalls including children books, health remedies, plants and Christmas arrangements.

It runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Call Margaret Rogers on (01384) 872073 for details.

Designer wins awards

A DESIGNER from Pedmore who started her company two years ago has scooped two prestigious awards for her firm's work. Cream & Black Interior director Hannah Cockburn won Interior Designer of the Year Award plus Best Conversion Award for work on Diesel House, Malvern .

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE massacres in France? I am torn between two opinions, the liberal and the biblical. The liberal is the one that goes, we in the West are partly to blame for the madness of the Middle East. We must therefore sit down and talk with Islamic State, just as we have talked to other psychopathic murderers in the past, from the Mau Mau to the IRA, to work out some long-term settlement and a happy ending. The biblical view is that there can be no happy ending. The tribes of the Middle East have been smiting each other for thousands of years; the killing began long before they saw a British, French or American face. The borders of Islam have always been marked by blood and today's militant Islam is incapable of living at peace with itself, let alone with its neighbours. It has nothing to discuss and there is nothing to negotiate because its aim is our utter destruction. The "hostages" taken in a Paris theatre were no such thing; they were taken not for bargaining but for slaughter. We should therefore do the Old Testament thing and smite our enemies with a vengeance. For every one of us they kill, we kill 1,000 of theirs. Every suicide vest detonated in the West will be repaid, not merely with precision smart bombs but with every weapon in our armoury, including those no-one likes to mention. The biblical solution is to rain fire and brimstone on Islamic State and turn its strongholds into puddles of molten sand.

DONALD Trump who, heaven forbid, might one day become President of the United States, says the Paris massacre would have turned out differently if the French were allowed to



carry guns. Can you imagine the carnage if 100 handgun-toting concert-goers had whipped out their Magnums and cut loose in a dark, crowded theatre? Terrorism is scary enough but no less terrifying is how many adult Americans cannot tell the difference between real life and Hollywood.

AS the week's horrific events in France unfolded, the many TV and radio interviews reminded us once again how many ordinary French folk speak excellent English, and how few Brits can manage to string the simplest sentence together in any foreign language.

WHEN it was announced that British storms would soon be getting their own names, no-one told us to brace ourselves for American names. Having been battered by Barney, can we look forward to Chuck, Dwight, Ellie-May, Frankie, Geraldo and Homer?

THE latest Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1) was a puzzle. I can't remember seeing so many grown-up people getting so excited about going to Blackpool. Maybe they hadn't been before.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Supermarket raiders flee empty-handed

RAIDERS fled empty-handed after trying to smash their way into a supermarket in Dudley when they were chased by police.

Sainsbury's Local in Pensnett was left boarded up following the attempted raid during the early hours of Wednesday morning (November 18).

The raiders smashed a window and even removed bricks from the wall in

a bid to gain access to the tills in the High Street shop, but they failed to get inside.

Getaway

Extensive damage was caused to the window and the brickwork but the shop remained open for business the next day.

Police gave chase to a Ford Fiesta after arriving at the scene at 2.45am,

but the getaway car evaded them.

Mandy Pursey, spokeswoman for Sainsbury's, said: "Nothing was taken and we are very grateful to our neighbours for calling the police."

Lee Page, for West Midlands Police, said CCTV was being reviewed to try to identify the offenders.

He said: "On arrival officers gave chase to a Ford Fiesta ST believed to have been involved in the offence,

but this was lost a few minutes later following a short pursuit.

"The offenders had attempted to gain access to the building by smashing a window and removing bricks but had not got inside. CCTV is being reviewed and forensic exhibits are being examined."

Anyone with information about the attempted break-in at the supermarket is asked to call police on 101.

More than 500 meet employers at jobs fair

MORE than 500 jobseekers flocked to a jobs fair in Brierley Hill, with organisers hailing the event a huge success.

Forty businesses set up stalls at The Waterfront for the fair, which was organised by Dudley South MP Mike Wood.

Amongst the companies were JLR, Avon, National Express, Neelan Care Plus, Sandwell College and Ladder for the Black Country, supported by the Express & Star. Since its inception in September 2014, over 700 apprenticeships have been created thanks to the Ladder for the Black Country scheme, which accounts for a sizeable part of the fall in youth unemployment.

Gill Durkin, Ladder for the Black Country's business development director said: "It's not been any easy task to cut the number of unemployed youths in the area, but it's been a fantastic scheme for the area considering we only started just over a year ago."

"Doing fairs such as this allow us to physically interact with those who are looking for their next step, showing them they have a number of potential options available."

Immanuel Wiredu, aged 40 from Wolverhampton, found the jobs fair very useful in being able to speak directly to potential employers.

He said: "I've been unemployed for a little while now and found it very frustrating applying online, talking to no one and just repetitively searching for jobs with no guidance. It was good to be in a room full of people who were looking to engage and directly speak with you, which I found very helpful."

Caribbean ball will help an orphanage

A CHARITY ball is being held in Wolverhampton to raise funds for an orphanage in Jamaica.

The Robin's Nest Charity Ball is being held by the Caribbean Family Adoption Aid charity at Grand Central, Sun Street, on December 28.

The event will run from 7pm till midnight and will feature live music from reggae band Abelwell Foundation, which consists of two vocalists and five musicians hailing from the heart of England. The ball will include a three-course Caribbean meal. Tickets are £35 and are available by calling 07773 282999. There are also prizes that will be on offer to win during the night.

Proceeds raised will go to the Robin's Nest Orphanage in Montego Bay, a non-profit Christian organisation.

Rock band James are to play city's arena

MANCHESTER rock band James will play Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena in the new year.

Tickets for the May 30 concert are on sale now. The tour follows the release of 14th studio album Girl At The End Of The World on March 18.

UKIP MEP quotes Enoch Powell at Euro meeting

Report by David Callaghan

UKIP councillor and MEP Bill Etheridge directly quoted Enoch Powell at a meeting in the Black Country, saying multiculturalism will 'lead to rivers of blood'.

The Euro MP spoke out at a public meeting entitled 'In a Europe of Freedom & Direct Democracy' attended by around 20 people.

Mr Etheridge began by saying that Conservative MP Powell was right when he said 'those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad'. He said: "The creed of multiculturalism is in fact a creed of surrender and it will lead to rivers of blood. A multi-ethnic Britain is fine and works well, a multicultural Britain is diverse not just diverse. Yes, remember where you came from but understand that when you have arrived here you must embrace British values there is no alternative."

Funeral

In his Rivers of Blood speech in Birmingham in 1968, the then MP for Wolverhampton South West Mr Powell compared the UK's immigration policy to watching a nation piling up its own funeral pyre.

Border control in the wake of the migrant crisis and the Paris terrorist attacks was the main topic at the meeting at the Brambles Hotel in Dudley on Friday night.

Sedgley councillor Mr Etheridge was joined by fellow UKIP MEP Jill Seymour and The Freedom Association chief executive Simon Richards.

All three spoke of their opposition to staying in the European Union, saying the UK should have the 'freedom to choose its own future' and claimed unregulated migration has invited terrorists into the country.

Mr Etheridge said: "It's madness not to control your own borders, it's madness not to make your own rules and laws and it's madness to see your democracy frittered away by people in Brussels and Strasbourg who care nothing of what local people think."

Glass museum will be ready in weeks



The scaffolding will soon be coming down at the new glass museum on the former Stuart Crystal site in Wordsley

A MULTI-MILLION pound scheme to build a new glassworks museum in Wordsley is on schedule to be completed by the end of this year.

The Stuart Crystal site, on High Street and opposite the Red House Glass Cone, received a £2.1 million funding grant in August from the European Regional Development Fund. The project is costing £5m overall.

Developers Complex Development Projects Ltd are now close to completing the site. As well as the museum, there will be an apartment block comprising 18 flats along with a number of offices.

Ian Harrabin, managing director at Complex Development Project Ltd, said: "I'm very happy with how the work has progressed and very much look forward to the

end of December when the museum is completed. The 18 flats will follow and be finished in March. It's a fantastic thing to be happening in the area."

Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford has been closed and its collection put in storage awaiting the completion of the new museum.

The developers have been working with the British Glass Foundation (BGF), which will run the museum. Graham Knowles, chairman of the BGF, said: "We are now at a pivotal point in the development of the new site at the White House Cone."

"The structure will be completed by the end of this year ready to be handed over to the charity with the Hot Glass Studio functioning around March 2016."

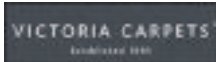
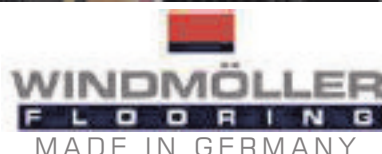
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Councillor facing a police inquiry

A LABOUR councillor has been suspended from the party pending the outcome of a police probe.

Councillor Derrick Hemingsley, a ward member for Wordsley, has been placed on 'immediate administrative suspension', officials have confirmed.

Councillor Hemingsley, of Penzer Street, Kingswinford, was elected to Dudley Council in 2012. He is a governor at Belle Vue School, chairman of the Friends of Wordsley Park and a campaigner against speeding motorists. He has been asked not to attend any governor meetings at the school.

Father Christmas visits church fair

PEOPLE can pick up gifts during a Christmas fair being held at a Dudley church on Saturday.

St Mark's Church, in Vicarage Lane, Pensnett, is hosting the festive event, to be opened at noon by councillors Judy Foster and John Martin.

Among the attractions at the church, which is often called 'the Cathedral of the Black Country', will be stalls selling homemade cakes and jams, plants and a bottle tombola. There will be a visit from extra special guest Father Christmas. Admission is 25p.

Pupils help to fill festive gift boxes

STUDENTS at a Dudley school have generously donated gifts to fill shoeboxes as part of Operation Christmas Child.

Ellores Hall Sixth Form pupils donated enough gifts to fill 13 shoeboxes for children less fortunate than themselves. Teacher Bethany Greaves said: "Well done to all involved, it was a fantastic effort."

Operation Christmas Child provides more than 124 million children in over 150 countries with a gift box.

£18,000 handed to village good causes

THOUSANDS of pounds worth of grants have been handed out to charities in and around Kinver.

South Staffs P Gavin Williamson presented grants worth £18,000 at a presentation evening at St Peter's Church Hall for money raised at Kinver Country Fayre. Charities to benefit include community transport schemes for the elderly, sport facilities for youngsters and South Staffordshire First Responders, who aim to install a defibrillator on Kinver High Street.

Wizard opportunity

AUDITIONS will be held for a theatre group to find performers for its latest production. Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society needs actors and singers for the Wizard of Oz. Auditions are on Saturday, December 5, at Quarry Bank Congregational Church, High Street. Visit www.qbmts.org.uk

Fairtrade Bala balls are selling at discount

DISCOUNTS are being offered to Dudley schools, teams and coaching clubs as part of a Fairtrade initiative for the area.

Bala Sport, the country's source for Fairtrade certified footballs, is offering a 20 per cent discount if Fairtrade footballs are bought before December 31.

The balls are made in Sialkot, Pakistan where 70 per cent of the world's hand stitched footballs come from.

Bala's balls are handstitched with their employees benefitting from working for an ethical employer.

Not only do the balls offer a high performing piece of sports equipment for players – they also help the people of Pakistan who make them achieve a better life for themselves and their families through a fair price and safe working conditions.

Bala's workers also benefit from the extra Fairtrade Premium to invest in things like free healthcare, education and clean water systems.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho said: "Stourbridge Fairtrade kindly donated three Bala balls for use at summer's charity walking football match and I can honestly say, the balls performed really well. This additional offer from Bala sport to our schools and football teams is a great way to support Fairtrade and get a quality product at a discounted price."

The discount is available on Bala's three designs, pro, team and play. Any borough school placing an order via the website www.balasport.co.uk can get a discount until December 31.

London Midland bans e-cigarettes

PASSENGERS will no longer be allowed to smoke electronic cigarettes on London Midland trains from the start of next month.

The train operating company, which runs services between Wolverhampton and Birmingham New Street and from Lichfield, Rugeley and Walsall to Birmingham, is introducing a new policy treating e-cigarettes on a par with tobacco.

It will also forbid the use of e-cigs in stations, depots and offices operated by the company.

Other train operators which have already banned them include Southern Railways, Thameslink and Great Northern, TfL, Virgin Northern Rail, ScotRail, Eurostar and Gatwick Express.

£10k raised for charities at quiz

A CHARTERED accountants in Brierley Hill raised £10,000 with its annual quiz. Around 200 attended Copthorne Hotel as Griffiths and Pegh hosted the event for Breast Cancer Now and Ladies Fighting Breast Cancer.

First look at £12m vision for college



An artist's impression of the campus

THIS is what a new £12 million college campus will look like when it is built in Dudley. The new Dudley Advance II would sit alongside its namesake Dudley Advance at the college's site in the town.

The college's ongoing investment in the town has been hailed by a councillor as changing the look of the town for the better in recent years.

Plans for Dudley Advance II follow hot on the heels of the opening of the £7m manufacturing and engineering building Dudley Advance in September last year. If it gets the go-ahead

from council planners, Advance II will complete the college's learning quarter and be part-funded through its contract with Saudi Arabia.

The college has submitted a formal planning application to Dudley Council for the new landmark building.

Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, said the college's investment in the town had improved its look.

He said: "This provides another educational facility, which is fantastic news for Dudley but it also helps with the regeneration of the town. Dudley College is playing a very significant

part in that regeneration. We're trying to do what we can as a council but it's clear the college's work is looked at by visitors who can see things happening in Dudley.

"It's absolutely phenomenal and these new buildings are making Dudley a better place. Lowell Williams, the college principal, is doing great things."

The 37,000 sq ft centre includes workshops, classrooms, project spaces, resource areas, welfare and support facilities around a four-storey building called The Hanger.

Wait times plummet after care unit opens

WAITING times at Russells Hall Hospital have been dramatically reduced after the opening of an urgent care centre.

Russells Hall has become one of the best performing hospitals in the country based on a national four-hour emergency care waiting target.

Dudley Urgent Care Centre, provided by Malling Health Ltd, was opened within the hospital's grounds in April.

In May 2014 there were 746 breaches of the four-hour waiting target. However, in May 2015 there were only 96.

The Urgent Care Centre offers non-emergency care for walk-in patients who have minor illnesses and injuries that need urgent attention.

In a report to the Dudley Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, chief accountable officer Paul Maubach, said its success had seen the hospital rise from 109th in the waiting times table into the top three. He added complaints registered about the centre were less than one per 1,000 patients.

Mr Maubach said: "The care centre continues to be refined and developed through a monthly governance steering group.

Contributed

"It is also recognised it has contributed significantly to the very strong performance of Russells Hall Hospital in regards to its four-hour emergency care wait target.

"In England, Russells Hall is currently a leading hospital provider for this important performance target.

"This is particularly significant because just over a year ago it was near bottom of the national ranking table."

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, which met last week, commissioned a new urgent and emergency care model for patients in April.

The scheme saw the nearby walk-in centre at Holly Hall Clinic close with a new urgent care centre open in Russells Hall, operating 24-hours a day, seven-days a week.

Mr Maubach said lead clinicians, along with the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, agreed the overall model had been a success.

"Emergency department clinicians agree the streaming is working appropriately and the right patients are being seen in the emergency department," he said.

Helping create precious memories



Sarah Foley with a picture of her baby son Freddie after their brief time together in a cuddle cot

A MOTHER who suffered the heartache of losing her premature baby is using her grief to spur on her help for other families in a similar situation.

Sarah Foley's son Freddie passed away just 54 minutes after being born 23 weeks into her pregnancy weighing 1lb 5oz.

Devastated Sarah and her partner Ricky were able to spend some time with their son thanks to a cuddle cot at Dudley's Russells

Hall Hospital, which helped them through the difficult time.

The special cots allow bereaved parents to spend up to 72 hours with their babies which have either been stillborn or passed away shortly after birth.

Russells Hall only has one of the cots and Miss Foley, aged 28, from Brierley Hill, was determined to provide the unit with more.

She has so far raised £700 in just a few weeks with the help of

friends through a crowd funding website, as well as through raffles and bucket collections. Cuddle cots cost around £1,500 each.

Miss Foley said: "It allows parents to keep their baby in the room with them and spend some time with them.

"It allows you to make memories," she added.

To donate go to crowdfunding.justgiving.com/sarah-foley

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Movie has job to make it pay at box office

APPARENTLY the new film about the life of American computer tycoon Steve Jobs hasn't been quite the box office hit that had been hoped for. Just two weeks after its launch, the movie was pulled from more than 2,000 cinemas by Universal, citing fierce competition. Which is surprising really, given its truly unique plot.

I hope I'm not spoiling the story for all those of you who were never going to watch it anyway. But essentially, in the 1970s a bloke with a beard called Steve goes into business with another bloke, who also has a beard and is also called Steve. Things don't work out, they squabble, and Steve – one of them anyway – goes his own way and sets up a rival business. After a lot of navel-gazing and finding himself, Steve is reunited with Steve (the one with the grey beard), and tells him he 'has not been in a good place'. And they launch a computer.

A bit like Alan Sugar. Only without the peeraage or the television show.

Just one question. How did that not smash box-office records?

WESTERN intervention in the Middle East. Disenchantment among a disaffected youth. Lack of educational opportunities and poverty. These are the things the bleeding heart liberals usually blame for the barbaric acts of terror of the kind we have seen recently in Paris.

Not the Prince of Wales, though, he has come up with a far more creative explanation. His Highness says it is all down to global warming. At least when his dad says something crass he usually gives us a laugh.

WEST Mercia's deputy police and crime commissioner Barrie Sheldon has spoken out, saying he wanted to debunk some of the myths about speeding enforcement. He says far from being a cash cow for the police, it has raised less than £1.5 million for the "safety partnership" in 12 months, all of which will be spent on roads. In other words, more speed cameras.

He adds that mobile police speed traps are only set on roads where more than 15 per cent of drivers have been clocked speeding.

But isn't that the wrong way of going about it? Surely the only criteria should be the number of accidents. If people are driving above the speed limit and not causing accidents, then that probably suggests the limit is too low.

Oh, and one other thing. Mr Sheldon admits that he himself has been fined for speeding. Now far be it from me to criticise. Indeed, show me a motorist who never speeds, and I will show you a liar. But when even the man responsible for enforcing the rules on speeding gets caught, doesn't that suggest maybe they are a bit too strict?



Dr Cooke when he retired from Summerhill Surgery, Kingswinford



In theatre — Dr Cooke was a hospital specialist as well as a GP



The young doctor setting out on his long career in medicine

GP's remarkable life reads just like a book

JORDAN HARRIS explores the memoirs of long-serving Black Country GP and author Doctor Edward Cooke

IN 46 years as a GP, Edward Cooke listened to thousands of stories.

So, having retired three years ago, there was only one thing to do – write a book about it all.

But rather than pen a straight autobiography, Dr Cooke has put together a collection of anecdotes that he says acts as a historical document of the Black Country, chronicling the area and its people.

Up until his retirement in 2012, he was one of the longest-serving doctors in the Black Country.

However describing his book, entitled *What The – Reflections of a Black Country*, as his story could be stretching the truth a little.

With several previous medical publications, this is his first for a non-medical audience and it portrays the tragedy, drama and comedy that a typical GP comes across.

Stabbed

From discovering a man who had been stabbed in the chest to his various encounters with badly-behaved children, Dr Cooke's book is not a run-of-the-mill memoir.

Dubbing himself a 'funny doctor', Dr Cooke doesn't choose to wallow in sadness for too long and a funny tale is always just around the corner.

He explained: "In those days, when you were a trainee, you went where you were told but I wanted to come back to the Black Country.

"Because of this rather unusual job I had, I had lots of unusual experiences and because of who I am as a person I would try and connect with my patients by telling them funny stories.

"Several years ago a hard-of-hearing patient told me I should write these down so he could understand them properly, so I did.

"I spent the last five years writing down all of my recollections from memory, from grow-



Retired GP Edward Cooke at his book launch for his collection of memories in *What The*

ing up in the grey Black Country after the Second World War, throughout my career in medicine.

"I did this without telling anyone, not even my wife, and I am extremely proud of the result."

While the tales contained within the book are examples of the stories of real people, it isn't always light reading and Dr Cooke himself has said it is 'not for children'.

The book contains births and deaths, including suicides and even murder.

There are some revelations never previously disclosed, particularly regarding cot deaths.

Some of the stories are emotion stirring tales of people at the lowest point in their lives and in dire need of help.

Dr Cooke, now aged 72, said: "There is a lot of humour in this book but it is also incredibly sad.

"When you become a GP, you spend life's crises with people.

"One night when I was working on call, I had to go out to a home at 3am where a man with lung cancer had burst a blood vessel and was coughing up blood. I knew it was serious and I had to get there quick.

"His son, who was only 23 years old, had locked himself in the bathroom with his father while he was slowly dying, to protect his mother from having to see it.

"The father died and when I left the house his son actually apologised to me for making me come out.

"He wasn't crying when he was mopping his dad's blood up, but he still apologised. I still get emotional to this day when I think of that night.

"Me and that lad still share a bond to this day, that is how you grow as a doctor.

"You have to make sure that your emotions don't get the better of you and always maintain your professionalism."

Dr Cooke's career in medicine has helped him get to know every inch of the Black Country and its people, through good times and bad. His book makes reference to a number of local landmarks and events including the closure of the Bilston Steel Works in 1979. It was an end of era and it shut despite a long fight to save it but Dr Cooke said he wasn't sad to see it go.

He said that for a long time he was 'losing one patient a year' as a result of them working at the steelworks.

He was so concerned about the difficult working conditions that he asked Lord Bilston, the former Wolverhampton South East MP Dennis Turner, who he met as a child and was good friends with, to take him for a tour of the site.

He said: "I know a lot of people were upset when the steel works closed and they still are to this day, but I was delighted to see them go.

"Lord Bilston was a great friend of mine and I didn't mind telling him that the closure was a good thing for me as a doctor.

Experiences

"I was losing one patient a year for the first ten years of being a doctor to the steelworks because of the conditions people were working in."

Black Country born and bred, Dr Cooke was educated at Dudley Grammar School before studying at The Medical School in Leeds and the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences at the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

However, his formative experiences in the Black Country stayed with him and his love for the area brought him back home. He would work for 46 years at Parkfields Medical Centre in Wolverhampton and Summerhill Surgery in Kingswinford, unusually working both as a GP principal and a hospital specialist.

He said: "My father and my grandfather both worked as coalminers and told me I would never follow them, that I was going to become a doctor. I wanted to become a pop star in those days but the medical profession was indeed my calling."

His book is available in paperback and on Kindle from Amazon.

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I earned my pension so why is it now being called a benefit?

ANYONE else out there noticing the phrase 'pensioner benefits' rather than just pensions, according to a Commons committee they are 'unsustainable'.

I do not look on myself as receiving benefits. I get a pension which I have earned through paying tax for 50 years, and still do.

I also, like millions of others, paid graduated pension and state earnings related contributions with the promise of receiving a greater state pension on retirement.

Now as demands on the state increase state pensions are referred to as benefits

making many feel guilty for having to rely on them.

A pie chart was shown on BBC, pensions were 50 percent of the welfare budget. Is this a ploy to eventually phase out the right to an automatic state pension? Will the retirement age become a thing of the past with people being signed off as not fit to work in order to receive a 'benefit'.

Benefits are not taxed, so if a state pension is a benefit why is it taxed?

R WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

Bus rides for MaccyD tea, surely some kind of joke?

PLEASE tell me that the letter from C Dawning was a hoax.

No parent would willingly drag their family after school, on two buses, so that they could have their tea at McDonald's.

This generation of young parents have been educated right from primary school about the importance of healthy eating and the message still surrounds them today.

How can it be that some still feed their children at such outlets when it would be healthier, quicker, cheaper and easier to walk round to Aldi and buy nourishing food to feed them with.

In despair,
M BILLINGS
Oldswinford

Welcome decision by the judges over site

I BELIEVE that my views are very similar to the majority of Dudley residents in welcoming the unanimous decision of the three Judges in the Court of Appeal last week, rejecting the Dudley Muslim Association's appeal.

This will now prevent this incongruous development from dominating the skyline of this ancient and historic borough.

I would hope that all right minded people would commend the local authority on its perseverance in the stance it has taken and I believe that this is indeed a triumph of local democracy, reflecting the majority view of the local electorate.

It is particularly heartening that both major political parties were able to agree on this issue and combine in their opposition to this development in such a prominent location.

D SEYMOUR
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

PM is not asking enough of the EU

IT is disappointing that Prime Minister David Cameron appears to only be putting four requests for re-negotiation to our European Union masters.

It is no secret that he wants the UK to remain in the EU, so if he asks for little and, consequently secures little, he can argue that we should remain.

I have always believed that in negotiations you ask for as much as possible on the basis that you will not get everything but may well get more than you originally wished for.

The UK will not get another chance to negotiate its position in the EU and if we do remain the other

members will expect us to accommodate every demand they make.

We now have a one and only chance to make sure that the UK's membership of the EU is in the UK's interest and does not compromise our own sovereignty or the seniority of our legal processes.

Mr Cameron must take advantage of this opportunity to rectify all of the areas that UK voters are concerned about and I would urge everyone to say to him — if you don't, we are out!

M CALLADINE
Kingswinford

Council to be congratulated

DUDLEY Muslim Association have reacted to the Court of Appeal's ruling by accusing Dudley Council of 'caving in' to pressure from protest groups.

How so? Caving in would have been to accept DMA's out-of-court settlement offer of £300,000 rather than to pursue the due legal process. I have been very critical of Dudley Council in the past, but on this occasion they are to be congratulated on acting absolutely correctly and properly on behalf of the great majority of residents of the borough.

B WILLIAMS
Wordsley



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Shoppers give £10k to Poppy Appeal

KIND-HEARTED shoppers have raised more than £10,000 through two Poppy Appeals.

Collections held outside Sainsbury's stores in Amblecote and Merry Hill in Brierley Hill reached £10,704. Andy Beardmore, store manager at Sainsbury's Amblecote, said: "The Poppy Appeal was a great success this year and we'd like to thank everyone who contributed."

The £6,386 raised outside the Amblecote store was collected by the local scout group and the Worcestershire branch of the Royal British Legion.

Sales of knitted and crocheted poppies, made by the store's newly formed craft club, contributed £1,000 towards the total.

Members of Quarry Bank Royal British Legion ran the Poppy Appeal in the Merry Hill store and raised £4,318.

Recycled

Ellie Failes, Corporate Partnerships Manager at The Royal British Legion, said: "We're delighted to be working with Sainsbury's again on their recycling initiative."

"The donated poppies will either be reused or recycled, so it's another great way for Sainsbury's customers to support us further."

It comes after two striking displays of poppies were cre-

ated by volunteers in Black Country communities.

More than 1,500 individually knitted poppies have added a splash of vibrant red to the memorial clock in Pelsall.

The stunning display was organised by Councillor Garry Perry as part of the village's Remembrance Day events.

The idea to decorate the landmark with the woollen flowers was only conjured up in September when around 40 keen knitters got straight to work, with many creating more than 100 poppies each.

And more than 2,000 hand-crafted poppies covered the inside of Dudley's Council House.

Gentleman Songsters Male Voice Choir staged its annual Festival of Remembrance in Dudley Town Hall to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal.

Nicola has found Dr Who's a new nest



Nicola Cotton with Dr Who's, which she bought for £10,500 in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital

A DOCTOR Who themed owl figure that sold for more than £10,000 at auction has taken up his perch at a new home just outside Halesowen.

The Dr Who inspired owl, 'Dr Who's', from The Big Hoot collection was taken under the wing of Nicola Cotton and is currently in her garage before taking pride of place in a new nursery.

Mrs Cotton, of Romsley, is due to open a new nursery in the former Hagley Police Station building next spring and felt that Dr Who would make the perfect accessory, as Dr Who's Tardis is shaped like an old fashioned police box.

"I'd seen the owls across Birmingham as part of 'The Big Hoot', so decided to go along to the auction," she said. "When it came to Dr Who's to be auctioned the lights were dimmed and the theme tune to Dr Who was played and daleks came out. I ended up winning him for £10,500."

The birds went under the hammer on October 15 at Millennium Point, where they raised more than £500,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital. The Big Hoot saw 89 individually decorated fibreglass owls — each 5ft 5ins tall — dotted across Birmingham in a public art project. Dr Who's, created by Stephen McKay, was at Snow Hill station during the summer, sponsored by London Midland.

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Chamber hosts career events

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce is urging local businesses to get involved with a series of careers fairs it is planning. Your Future Careers Fairs is a Government funded national project to deliver 250 events through Chambers of Commerce, attracting over 70,000 young people across England.

The Black Country Chamber will be running three fairs, which aim to reach over 1,200 young people between the ages of 14 and 24 looking for support and advice on a career.

The first is on December 3 at Q3 Academy, Wilderness Lane, Great Barr, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

The Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton will host the second on February 4 from 1pm to 7pm and the final fair is on March 10 but the venue has yet to be confirmed.

For more information on the fairs contact Catrin Guy on 01902 912305.

Caparo's first sell-off saves more than 70 jobs in Oldbury

By

MORE than 70 jobs have been saved after part of steel firm Caparo was sold off.

Part of the Caparo Industries operation has been sold to Applus+, which operates in more than 70 countries.

Caparo Testing Technologies, including a site at Popes Lane, Oldbury, is the first Caparo business to be sold off since the group went into administration last month.

The move has already seen many firms closed with 323 jobs going across the region.

Administrators PricewaterhouseCoopers said CTT has three other locations and two customer sites across the Midlands and south of the UK.

The business operates in Oldbury, Reigate, Luton and Poole, conducting testing of parts in a range of sectors with a particular focus on aerospace and aviation.

Robert Moran, partner at PwC, leading the Caparo sales process, said: "The sale of Caparo Testing Technologies to Applus+ represents a highly strategic acquisition and demonstrates the quality of this business."

"It is also great news for 76 employees of the Caparo Industries Group. We would like to thank all of the Caparo people involved for their dedicated support in securing this transaction."

"We continue to hold advanced and encouraging discussions with a number of parties around the sale of remaining Caparo Industries Group companies."

The sale does not include CTT's testing operation at Planetary Road, Willenhall. That business is continuing to operate.

Partners from PwC were appointed as administrators to 16 companies in the Caparo Industries Group on October 19.

Since that sale another part of the collapsed Caparo Industries group, Caparo Wire in Wrexham, has been sold to Recapital, an investment company which specialises in buying up and turning around struggling businesses.

Region losing its graduates

BIRMINGHAM and the West Midlands are facing a 'brain drain' of graduates, with one in three of the region's university leavers opting to search for jobs elsewhere in the country.

Failure to halt the exodus of graduate talent lost each year poses a real threat to the regions' 'powerhouse' ambitions, warns Intern Avenue.

Behind

Intern Avenue has exposed how the West Midlands is falling further behind other regions in the UK — particularly London and the South East — when it comes to attracting and retaining top graduate talent.

It also found that despite being the home to over 15 per cent of the total student population in the UK, with one in three opting to start their careers away from the region.

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Farewell to Bob, the life and soul of party

FROM facing gun-toting men in the African bush to setting up a sauna bath company in the Black Country, Bob Jew had a colourful life.

Tributes are being paid to 'The Major', as he was known, after his death aged 85.

Halesowen-born Mr Jew spread his wings as a young man, developing his wanderlust first during his National Service after the Second World War, when he was based in Trans-Jordan and fought the infamous Zionist group the Stern Gang in Palestine.

He became an army boxing champion in Egypt.

Mr Jew then headed to Nigeria, where he was first a cocoa bean buyer for Rowntree Fry and Cadbury and later general manager of a chain of general stores.

Mr Jew, who grew up in Alexandra Road, Halesowen, with his parents, Arthur and Freda, sister Pauline and brother Ted, often lived deep in the African bush and had to deal with some scary situations – confronting workers brandishing guns during a strike, being robbed and becoming the target of a juju (African black magic) curse.

"Dad was not a man to be bullied and, fortunately, he had the gift of the gab – so he could talk his way out of anything," said his journalist daughter Louise, 58, of Hagley.

"He befriended many Nigerians, to the extent that they made him an honorary African chief and presented him and our mother with an ornate fly swish which they were photographed with when they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary nine years ago."

"When we lived in Warri, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh took a fancy to our house, a rather lovely colonial place on the banks of the River Niger and gave our family 24 hours notice to quit. The chief never actually lived there but just put up a sign saying 'Festus Okotie-Eboh owns this house'."

Miss Jew recalls local juju followers hanging a bottle containing a substance cursing her father on the gates



Bob and Barbara Jew on their golden wedding anniversary nine years ago

of the compound where they lived – but the former Halesowen Grammar School boy promptly smashed it.

Mr Jew married Barbara Lucas, from Cradley Heath, in 1956 and she joined him in Nigeria after teaching at a finishing school in Switzerland.

She gave birth to Louise in Ibadan, Nigeria, and the couple's son, Nigel, was born in Sedgley just over a year later. When they returned to the Black Country in the mid 1960s, Mr Jew had a number of jobs before starting a commercial sauna bath firm from the family's home in Brook Street, Stourbridge.

Son Nigel said: "His distinctive moustache and military bearing

earned him the nickname around Stourbridge of 'The Major', although he never actually held that rank. We had loads of fun with him throughout our lives – he was the life and soul of any party."

Mr Jew, of Whittington Road, Norton, who also leaves grandchildren Luke, Eva, Joe and Danny, died on November 10 – which would have been his late wife's birthday – at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, where he was being treated for bronchopneumonia.

A celebration of his life will be held on December 4 at 12.20pm at Stourbridge Crematorium. Guests are urged to wear their Sunday best in any colour and a flower in memory of Mr Jew.

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Birthday girl has been visiting zoo since 1930s



Enjoying the birthday trip to the zoo is Barbara with daughters Tina Watson and Sandra Cash, and son-in-law James Cash

SHE has visited Dudley Zoo on her birthday almost every year since it opened in 1937 and Barbara Cross has no intention of stopping now — 78 years later.

Mrs Cross made her first visit to the zoo aged 10 and returned on the day she turned 88, the mother-of-five daughters was accompanied by two of her girls, Tina Watson and Sandra Cash, and her son-in-law James Cash.

Mrs Cross recalled many happy memories of trips to the zoo with school friends, her late husband Edward Rhys Cross, and her children

Lynda, Gail, Sandra, Yvonne and Tina, her nine grandchildren and her seven great-grandchildren.

She said: "On my first visit here with a friend I held my hand out to one of the monkeys and he nearly pulled me in with him. There was another time when I tried to get on a camel and I fell off."

"I've seen a lot of changes over the years and there are more animals here now than there used to be. I have had some wonderful days out at the zoo."

The great-grandmother, from Oldbury, said her favourites were the big cats so zoo bosses presented her with a gift adoption pack for lioness Kyra.



Barbara and family at the zoo in 1945

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Chicago cast ready to razzle dazzle



Chicago line-up — Hayley Tamaddon as Roxie, John Partridge as Billy Flynn and Sam Bailey as Mama Morton

X Factor winner Sam Bailey will be swapping her former real life role as a prison officer to play an inmate when the musical Chicago comes to Wolverhampton on tour.

The singer will play cell block boss Mama Morton when the 1920s-set jazz musical is staged at the Grand Theatre next summer.

Sam Bailey worked as a prison officer at HM Prison Gartree for three years until 2013. At the end of that year Sam won the tenth series of the

X Factor receiving more than a million votes over the course of the final weekend.

Chart-topper

Following her win, her debut single Skyscraper was the Christmas chart-topper and was followed in 2014 with her debut album, The Power of Love, reaching number one in the album charts.

Hot shot lawyer Billy Flynn will be played by EastEnders actor John Par-

tridge and Coronation Street's Hayley Tamaddon will play nightclub singer turned killer Roxie Hart.

Kander and Ebb's hit show, which was also made into a movie, features famous choreography by Bob Fosse, which recently inspired Georgia Mae Foote and Giovanni Pernice's Charleston on Strictly Come Dancing.

Chicago will be staged at the Grand June 20 to 25 and tickets are already on sale online at grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

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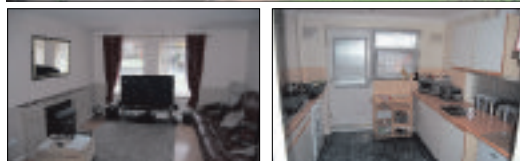
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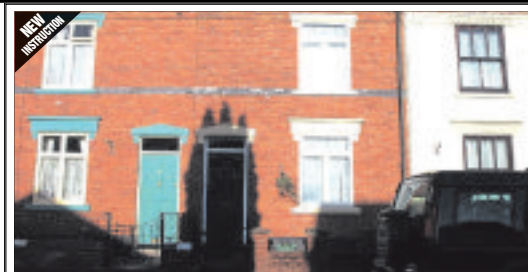
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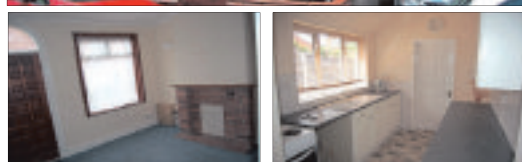
ALDEFORD DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A Three bedroom Detached property with garage. Accommodation to comprise: Entrance Hall, Lounge, fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. The property further benefits from Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking and rear gardens.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: YES
£695PCM DEPOSIT £725 • FEES



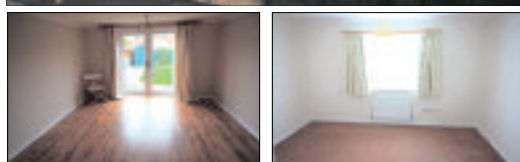
CLEVELAND STREET STOURBRIDGE

A three storey two bedroom mid terrace property with loft conversion situated in a popular residential location within the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. The accommodation comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, cellar space, bathroom and loft conversion. The property further benefits from having gas fired central heating, double glazing and an enclosed rear garden laid to lawn. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO CHILDREN: YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO
£625PCM DEPOSIT £725 • FEES



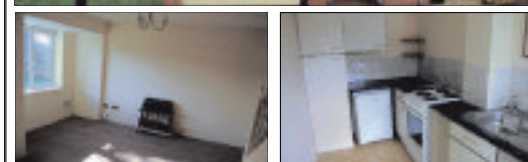
WHEELER STREET STOURBRIDGE

A very well presented three bedroom end terrace property situated in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge and close to all amenities and local transport. The accommodation comprises of Lounge, dining room, rear lobby, kitchen and bathroom and three bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, shared rear parking and enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS: No Children: Yes Smokers: No
£550.00PCM DEPOSIT £650 • FEES



RICHARDSON DRIVE WOLLASTON

A well presented Two bedroom End Terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed lawned side garden and enclosed rear garden with patio, lawn and store shed. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C
DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£625PCM DEPOSIT £725 • FEES



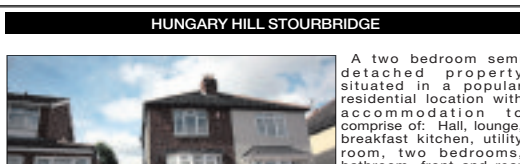
DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An attractive modern starter home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, two Bedrooms and Shower Room. The property also benefits from sealed unit Double Glazing, small fore Garden and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E
DSS: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES
£450PCM- DEPOSIT £550•FEES



COCHRANE CLOSE PEDMORE

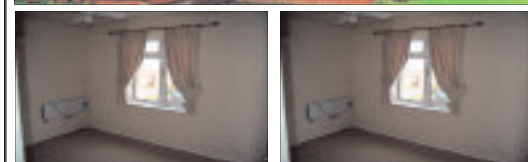
A Prestigious four bedroom detached property situated in a highly desirable residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, garage, private driveway affording off road parking, carport, lawned foregarden and rear lawned garden with patio. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£1200PCMDEPOSIT£1300•FEES



HUNGARY HILL STOURBRIDGE

A two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility room, two bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens and garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = AWAITING DSS:NO PETS: MAY CONSIDER GARDEN MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO

£595PCM DEPOSIT £695 • FEES



TAMAR RISE AMBLECOTE

A well presented one bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and built in shower room. The property also benefits from double glazing, electric heating and off road parking to the fore and brick built bin store. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£370PCM DEPOSIT £470 • FEES



DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A two bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance with staircase to first floor, private entrance hall with store cupboard, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating, allocated off road parking and bin store. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 • FEES

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Original Rollers singer Les McKeown leads the fans in song

Roller back the years with pop's Tartan Army

ROLLERMANIA is alive and well in the Black Country.

The Tartan army were out in full force to see original Bay City Rollers frontman Les McKeown and his band take to the stage in Bilston.

Fans joined the lead singer in rolling back the years to hear the legendary Scottish group – the One Direction of the 70s – perform their classic pop hits.

While it's almost 40 years since the multi-million album selling group split, McKeown still knows how to get the crowd going. Females aged from their 20s to their 70s were all under the lead singer's spell at the Robin 2 on Thursday. Fans draped in the iconic tartan flocked to see the one-time teenage heart-throb who, despite being a few years older, continued to work the crowd.

The Bay City Rollers announced

in September that three of the original band members would be reforming, armed with a new album and even a Christmas single.

Mandy Southall, 54, of Limes Avenue, Brierley Hill, who works as a domestic cleaner at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, had bought tickets to celebrate her friend Sandra Carter's 60th birthday. She said: "It was sometime in the 1970s we last saw them live. We were all into the tartan trousers and McKeown was always one of our favourites." Housewife Sandra, also of Limes Avenue, said: "We loved the music but we also loved their looks. I didn't think we would get the chance to see them again."

Crowds hugged and screamed as the band belted out hits from Summerlove Sensation to Bye Bye Baby, giving fans a night to remember.



Bay City Roller fans Mandy Skidmore, Mandy Southall and Sandra Carter party in Bilston like its 1974

Hospital staff lack faith in workplace

JUST half the staff at a Black Country hospital would want their friends or family to be looked after there – and even fewer would want them to work there – a survey reveals.

And the number of workers at most hospital trusts in the Black Country and Staffordshire that would recommend their sites is below the national average.

In Walsall just 51 per cent said they would want loved ones to be admitted to the Manor Hospital, and only 44 per cent would recommend working there.

Meanwhile, only 45 per cent of staff recommended working at Sandwell Hospital, compared with 47 per cent at Dudley's Russells Hall. The national average is 63 per cent.

When asked if they would be happy if their friends or family were admitted to Sandwell, 67 per cent said they would, compared with 77 per cent for Dudley, while in Wolverhampton it was 79 per cent.

University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust was top locally with 83 per cent. The national average is 79 per cent.

Positive

Bosses say staff made plenty of positive comments in the survey but admit they would like to see an improvement.

It comes as 200 staff at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust face the axe in the new year, which bosses admit has affected morale.

The survey is intended to monitor the mood of staff in the NHS after more than

By Adam Burling

4,000 staff were questioned across the five trusts, so bosses can address any issues that arise from the consultation.

In Sandwell the job losses are the next phase of wider plans by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust to cut around 1,400 posts over five years.

Raffaella Goodby, director of organisation development at Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "We are working hard to improve the experience of staff that work here."

"Our recent workforce changes have been unsettling for many colleagues affected, however we are working hard to redeploy colleagues into other roles within our trust or with other trusts, and to offer support, coaching and skills development."

A message to staff sent with the survey states: "It is hoped that the test will help to promote a big cultural shift in the NHS, where staff have further opportunity and confidence to speak up"

Petrol stations hit by 22,000 thefts of fuel

CROOKED motorists have driven off from petrol stations in the West Midlands more than 22,000 times without paying in the past five years, latest figures reveal.

This figure includes more than 8,000 drive-offs – known as "biking" – in the last two years.

Aside from Birmingham, which had 8,785 in the last five years, Sandwell was the worst region in the West Midlands for petrol theft with 3,110. There were also 2,839 drive-offs in Dudley (showing a slight decrease), 1,998 in Wolverhampton and 1,592 in Walsall.

West Midlands Police said that most crimes of this nature happen with cars using false plates. Spokesman Lee Page said: "While encouraging businesses to take steps to minimise the likelihood of them becoming a victim – such as operating a pre-pay policy and installing good quality CCTV – we are also working hard to prevent licence plates being stolen by fitting anti-theft screws."

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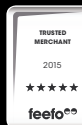
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Gallery strikes back as Star Wars art on show

STAR Wars fever is spreading to Wolverhampton as a collection of rare artwork goes on display.

Various pieces are available from Castle Galleries on Victoria Street ahead of the release of the new Star Wars film, The Force Awakens, in December.

To celebrate the movie's release, publisher Washington Green is releasing six iconic Star Wars Marvel comic book covers as limited edition prints.

Some of the artwork will be available to buy from Castle Galleries.

Marvel's Star Wars series, published between 1977 and 86, was the first official comic book adaptation of Star Wars and proved a phenomenal success on its release. Translated into limited edition art for the first time, the new works pay tribute to some of the franchise's most memorable characters including Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, the Stormtroopers and Darth Vader - widely considered as the greatest villain of all time.

Shelves

Ian Collunbell, the gallery manager for Wolverhampton's Castle Galleries, said: "Our Marvel artwork releases continue to be best sellers for Castle Galleries, and with the much anticipated launch of The Force Awakens, we expect this series of signed limited edition works to fly off the shelves."

"Marvel and Star Wars are two iconic brands which have individually had a huge impact on today's popular culture. This collection of iconic comic book covers celebrates one of the most famous film franchises of all time and encapsulates the battle between good and evil which both Star Wars and Marvel are recognised for."

"It will appeal to both art collectors and fans of Star Wars alike - giving



Rare Star Wars artwork up for sale



One of the limited edition pieces



The display celebrates the new film



Castle Galleries is showing the prints

people a chance to own their own piece of comic book history."

Each piece of artwork is individually hand signed by Stan Lee, aged 92, a comic book writer, editor and former chairman of Marvel comics.

The images are available to buy from Castle Galleries, Wolverhampton, 62 Victoria Street, WV1 3NX. The new collection consists of six images available in both boxed canvas (edition of 195) and giclée on paper (edition of 295). Prices start from £695, and portfolio sets are also available.

More information is available from www.castlegalleries.com



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The Vaccines hit Civic like a whirlwind



The Vaccines can still rock up a storm — guitarist Freddie Cowan, left, and frontman Justin Hayward-Young in action

The Vaccines, Wolverhampton Civic Hall
IT was blowing a gale outside but it was raining beer inside the Civic as a boisterous crowd moshed along to The Vaccines with a 75-minute set so lively it made a foul Tuesday feel like New Year's Eve.
It was a nice touch to have the lights create the blue, white and red French Tricolore on the backdrop between bands in tribute to rock fans who were killed in Paris four nights earlier.
The headliners had help from two supporters who did a good job of warming up the young crowd.
First up were New York trio Sunflower Bean who made amends for a name that sounds like a hippy-run coffee shop with some sizzling psychedelic rock.
Watching them was like being transported into the universe of Scott Pilgrim due to the gauche glamour of singer/bassist/catwalk model Julia Cumming and the Michael Cera look of guitarist Nick Kivlen. He clearly has the good taste to be influenced by 1970s German band Neu. The debut album is due in February.
Palma Violets are a terrific live band. The London outfit's recorded output doesn't really do justice to the force of nature impact of their endearingly ramshackle stage presence.
With a two-for-one deal on frontmen, Samuel Fryer and rabble-rousing Alexander 'Chilli' Jesson, they swaggered and roared through a set that excitingly teetered on the edge of chaos.
London's The Vaccines hit the

indie rock scene like a whirlwind a few years back and they can still rock up a storm, even though third album English Graffiti has taken them into a more commercial direction.
Opening with Handsome from the latest album was like going from 0 to 60 in an instant but they remained in top gear, singer Justin Hayward-Young commanding the stage, bouncing on his toes like a boxer, while Freddie Cowan struck guitar hero poses.
Older tracks like Post Break-Up Sex, Wet Suit, Ghost Town, Bad Mood and final encore Norgaard were the fans' favourites. But the anthemic Give Me A Sign showed that The Vaccines could still make the transition to stadium status.
Leon Burakowski

Ellie joins the pop elite with Delirium

ALBUM REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

ELLIE Goulding finally makes the transition to fully-fledged stadium level premier league pop star with *Delirium*, her third album.

The folksy tinge to her voice remains and her love of dance music is still apparent on *Devotion*. But the 28-year-old singer from Herefordshire on this album totally embraces synth pop, exemplified by tracks such as *Codes*.

And she has the anthems to put her in the same ballpark as top modern pop like Taylor Swift's 1989 album, thanks to sure-bet hits like *Scream It Out*, the gospel-tinged *Holding On For Life* and the Shake It Off-like *Around U*.
Ellie Goulding plays Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on March 21 to complete the upward trajectory that started as support act for Little Boots in the Wulfrun Hall a couple of years back.

Cat-in-the-hat jazz singer **Gregory Porter** with the creamy rich vocal has a Special Edition of his Grammy Award-winning 2014 album *Liquid Spirit* out.

The revamp enhances that set of sophisticated soul-infused songs, including the stand-out finger-snapping title track, mellow love song *Hey Laura* and a groovy revamp of Northern Soul classic *The In Crowd*. Added are such standards as *When You Wish Upon A Star*, *Fly Me To The Moon* and *Puttin On The Ritz*.

The bonus tracks also include the Californian singer's collaboration with Jamie Cullum on *Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood*. Gregory Porter will be in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on April 24.



Ellie Goulding — her devotion to dance music is still apparent on *Delirium*

Finnish metal quartet **Grave Pleasures** come across like a hard rock Roxxy Music on their album *Dreamcrash* due to their English singer Mat McMerney.

Manchester band **Postcards From Jeff** make indie rock in the style of *Kitchens Of Distinction* and The Editors on their debut *Modern Language* but are let down by dreary vocals.

Those pining for good old fashioned bluesy rock should check out **Barrence Whitfield & The Savages** on their raw and rocking album *Under The Savage Sky*.

Recently seen supporting James Bay, retro styled singer **Elle King** is pitched somewhere between Imelda May and Meghan Trainor, a rock chick from rural Ohio who shows promise on her debut *Love Stuff*, particularly on the banjo-plucking *Song of Sorrow*, but is not quite the finished article.

Best known for Northern Soul classic *Tainted Love*, American singer **Gloria Jones** was also a backing singer for glam rock stars T Rex and became the girlfriend of Marc Bolan. This CD two-for-one reissues her mid 70s albums *Vixen* and *Windstorm* plus bonus

tracks. Only made two years apart yet these are very different albums. Vixen is caught between glam rock and disco, not doing justice by either genre, including a weak revamp of *Tainted Love* and a dire disco version of *Get It On* (the funkier version on *Part 2* fares better).

But the other songs provided by Bolan, such as *Drive Me Crazy*, *Disco Lady*, *Tell Me Now* and *Sailors Of The Highway* will be of interest to Bolan fans. There is also a decent version of 60s classic *Go Now*.

Windstorm, recorded by Jones on returning to America after Bolan's death, is a much classier affair, slick soulful disco with input from such first class musicians as Joe Sample from The Crusaders, Raydio's Ray Parker Jr and several Motown veterans.

Kool & The Gang were masters of feel-good soul-pop and a remastered reissue of their 1983 album *In The Heart*, featuring the hits *Joanna*, *Tonight* and *Straight Ahead*, still sounds good more than 30 years later. This set also includes bonus 12in mixes including the classic *Ladies Night*.



HALF PRICE Black Forest Mocha
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11am - 4pm

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*Alcohol licensed centres only. 18+ only. Food and drink samples and menus may vary by centre and are subject to availability while stocks last. Restaurant centres only, excludes concessions. Subject to availability. While stocks last.

Views sought on school changes

THREE schools in the Dudley borough are asking for views on proposed admission arrangements for 2017/18.

The schools concerned, Bishop Milner RC Catholic College, St Joseph's and St Mary's primary schools, have a statutory duty to consult when changes are made to their arrangements.

People can view each of the school's proposed arrangements and find out how they can make comment by visiting www.dudley.gov.uk

The arrangements are open to consultation until December 14, 2015.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children, said: "Although the schools are only making minor amends that won't affect how children are selected, they are required to consult on them."

Breaking rules over tobacco results in five facing huge bills

TRADERS have been fined or made to pay costs for possession and sale of illegal tobacco.

Trading Standards brought three prosecutions before Dudley Magistrates' Court. In the first case Huner Hamed, aged 45, of Mellor Street, Derby, and Amamj Hasan, 25, of Bentley Street, Derby, both admitted two charges of possession for supply of goods prohibited by safety regulations and two charges of possessing goods with a false trademark for sale/hire.

Hasan admitted a charge of money laundering and Hamad admitted possessing criminal

property. Magistrates were told 150 packs of cigarettes and 25 packs of hand-rolling tobacco were seized from Eazy Shop, in Brierley Hill High Street, in 2015.

Both received a 12-month conditional discharge and were ordered to pay £2,304 costs each with £180 criminal court charges.

The court was told officers had inspected Baba Shaheed, in High Street, Lye and found six sleeves and 11 individual packs of cigarettes, none displayed the correct labelling and warnings. Muhammed Fazal Ur Rehman, 31, of Salop Road, Redditch, owner of the shop, pleaded

guilty to two charges of possessing for supply goods prohibited by regulations and a count of possessing criminal property. He was fined £426 with £1,585 costs and £180 court charges.

In the third case, the court was told officers found 237 packs of illegal cigarettes in Ivy Road, Dudley. Ronald Anslow, 63, and Amanda Lewis, 44, both of Ivy Road, pleaded guilty to three offences involving lack of labelling and criminal property. They each admitted two charges of supplying goods prohibited by regulations. Both got two year conditional discharges, ordered to pay £1,375 costs each with £180 charges.

Yes for nursery plans to expand

PLANS to expand a Dudley nursery to help meet a growing demand for places have been given the go-ahead.

Managers of the nursery at Woodside Community Primary School in Highgate Road will create an extension to provide an area for babies.

The proposals were approved by Dudley Council planners last week.

A report submitted as part of the application said: "The current nursery provision at the school is currently over-subscribed and requires extending to cater for the growing nursery numbers for this area." The extension will provide an area for babies, as well as a milk kitchen and nappy change area. A covered outside space is also included.

Finishing touches at chapels



Joiner Paul Stevens at work in a chapel which will host weddings and civil ceremonies

THE £1.2 million renovation of a chapel so it will be able to host weddings and civil ceremonies is nearing completion.

Brides and grooms to be will soon be able to say 'I do' at Grade II-listed former Lye and Wollescote Chapel.

The building is undergoing a massive facelift to turn it into a registration office for civil ceremonies.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust has carried out the refurbishment on the site, which was built in 1879 and is made up of two Victorian Gothic-style chapels.

One of these will house the registration office and the other a new wedding venue.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for corporate and customer services, said: "We are looking forward to opening this unique and stunning ceremony venue thanks to the restoration work which has

preserved a slice of local history. Brides-to-be can make provisional bookings for weddings next year when the Wollescote Suite will be ready from April 8."

Dudley registrars, who will lease the buildings, have revealed that they can take provisional bookings for weddings at the new venue from April 8 next year.

The new Wollescote Suite, which features much of the former chapel's original Gothic architecture, will hold marriage parties in the region of 40 people.

The former Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel will be renamed The Thomas Robinson Building after the original architect.

On Saturday the Victorian Chapels will throw open their doors from 10.30am to 1pm so people can see the results of the specialist heritage conservation team's work.

Trader urges support for small business

A BUSINESSMAN from Stourbridge has issued a rallying cry to fellow entrepreneurs to get behind a business event.

Craig Fletcher, owner of Ovenu Stourbridge, is backing Small Business Saturday and wants other firms to do the same.

Mr Fletcher will switch his spending to small, independently-owned local retailers to mark the annual event which takes place next Saturday, on December 5.

Small Business Saturday, which was launched in 2013, highlights business success and encourages shoppers to shop local at independent smaller firms.

Mr Fletcher said: "Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy and their impact is often overshadowed in favour of larger corporations.

"Small Business Saturday provides the perfect opportunity to champion everything that is good about our independent, local shops and services here in Stourbridge"

Parking fee U-turn call

A PETITION calling for controversial new parking charges at a Black Country beauty spot to be scrapped has been handed in to council bosses.

A decision to charge motorists to park at Sandwell Valley for the first time has attracted a public backlash, with 120 people putting their names to a petition in the space of just a week.

Sandwell Council has said the charges are necessary to ensure funds can be generated for the upkeep of the park.

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Washington, New York and Niagara Falls

Eight days various departure dates



Spend time admiring Niagara Falls and perhaps choose to take an optional helicopter flight over the Falls for a bird's eye view. Alternatively enjoy lunch in a restaurant (payable locally) overlooking this fabulous natural wonder.

Also on the itinerary is a two-night stay in Gettysburg, site of the 1863 battle where Confederate forces overcame the Unionists during the American Civil War.

Visit historic Philadelphia with an included city tour, which will bring to life the colourful story of America's birth and the characters of great men, like Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.



PRICE FROM £999

Discover a trio of historic, enthralling American cities, and one of the world's greatest natural wonders, all on this wonderful escorted tour.

Enjoy an included visit to the 'most powerful city on Earth', Washington DC. Here take the opportunity to join an optional guided city tour and see some of the most famous US landmarks, such as the Capitol building, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and of course the White House itself.

A full day is spent in the world's most exciting metropolis, New York City, with its landmark skyscrapers, green acres of Central Park, its famous Fifth Avenue stores and bustling Time Square. To truly experience the highlights of the city, try one of the optional excursions, these include a guided city tour and a breathtaking helicopter ride.

INFO

- Return flights
- Coach travel throughout overseas
- Six nights room-only accommodation
- Visits to Washington DC, New York, Philadelphia and Niagara Falls
- Guided city tour of Philadelphia
- Optional excursions available
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Pick of the week

Bath and Oxford Buy one get one free

Two days departing March 20



PRICE FROM £155*

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visits to Oxford and Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

* Price is for two people

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

York, Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales

Four days departing April 8



PRICE FROM £209

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Skipton, Harrogate and Haworth
- Full day in York
- Scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales stopping at Grassington and Pateley Bridge
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Royal Yacht Britannia, Edinburgh and Glasgow

Five days departing April 15 and October 16



PRICE FROM £329

- Return coach travel
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia
- Visits to Edinburgh and Glasgow
- Cruise on Loch Lomond
- Cruise on Steam ship Sir Walter Scott on Loch Katrine
- Tour and tasting at the Glengoyne Distillery
- Scenic visit to Queen Elizabeth Forest including Aberfoyle
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Lumiere London

Two days departing January 16



PRICE FROM £79

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to London for the Lumiere London light festival
- Time for shopping or sightseeing
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Edinburgh City Break by rail

Three days
monthly weekend departures to March 2016



PRICE FROM £109.⁹⁵

- Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at the three-star Hotel Ibis Edinburgh Centre South Bridge
- Departures on Fridays and Saturdays
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

London Weekend by rail

Two days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £129.⁹⁵

- Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star central London hotels
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Three-day option also offered from £199.90
Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Lincoln, York and Castle Howard

Four days departing June 24 and October 7



PRICE FROM £275

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Castle Howard
- Visits to Lincoln, York and Beverley
- Canal cruise in Lincoln with commentary and a complimentary drink
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Strawberry Fields, Penny Lane and the Cavern Club

Three days departing July 22 and Sept 9



PRICE FROM £199

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- 'Beatles Coach Tour' and entrance to the Cavern Club
- Free time in Liverpool
- Journey on the "Ferry 'cross the Mersey"
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Krakow

Four days various departure dates 2016



PRICE FROM £399

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Krakow
- Visit to Wawel, the castle district
- Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau (included but optional)
- Optional tour of Salt Mines
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Venice

Five days various departure dates 2016



PRICE FROM £579

- Return flights
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Sightseeing tour of Venice
- Timed entrance to St Mark's Cathedral
- Entrance to the Doge's Palace
- Boat tour to Murano and glass-making demonstration
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Madrid, Salamanca and Toledo

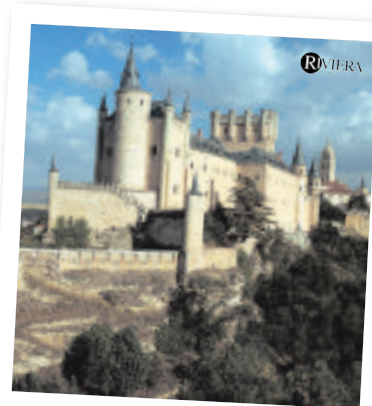
Seven days various departure dates 2016



PRICE FROM £599

- Return flights
- Six nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Four dinners (one dinner when staying at the Catalonia Gran Via Hotel)
- Sightseeing tour of Madrid
- Visit to Toledo
- Visits to Aranjuez and Segovia
- Walking tour of Salamanca
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



VISIT

Stourbridge

CHRISTMAS EDITION

Lighting up the town for Christmas



The town of Stourbridge is all lit up for Christmas



The Ryemarket Shopping Centre looking festive ahead of the event



It wouldn't be Christmas without reindeer, two boys take a look at the attraction

ADVERTISING FEATURE

THE Christmas lights switch-on, in conjunction with Stourbridge Chamber of Trade and the Ryemarket will take place on Saturday, December 5 at 5pm in the town centre.

A road closure will be in place on Coventry Street, High Street, Duke Street and Market Street from the junction of Bell Street/Talbot Street to High Street from 6am to 8pm.

Activities planned for the day include a Christmas Market in High Street, vintage steam engines in Duke Street, free funfair in Market Street. Father Christmas will also be in residence at the Ryemarket Shopping Centre. Visitors can see him for free and receive a gift.

There will be floating angels at various times around the town, Black Country Radio will be transmitting live from the outdoor enter-

tainment space at Ryemarket and Ryely mouse will be on walk about!

Local performers will take to the stage in Crown Square and Ryemarket from noon until 4.45pm, with the Christmas lights being switched on at 5pm.

New for this year will be a miniature steam train for children. This will be running part way through Coventry Street. Anyone needing vehicular access to premises in Coventry Street during the day, or has any questions, is asked to contact the chamber of trade who will endeavour to make the necessary arrangements.

A Christmas Tree festival takes place at St Thomas Church, Stourbridge Market Street and council car parks are free all day.

New businesses are opening up in Stourbridge, a tea shop in the Ryemarket and Cafe Grey in Market Street.



Emma Clee, of Amblecote, and daughter Amelia at the 2014 switch-on

Merry Christmas from all of us at

Get ahead and order your Christmas turkey today

Let Waitrose Entertaining's made-to-order service help satisfy your hungry horde without missing out on the moments that matter. Your order will be freshly prepared and requires the minimum amount of preparation after it is delivered - so you can relax and get into the spirit of the season.

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Plus you can amend your order anytime up until 11.45am the day prior to delivery, in case you forget any must-haves!

Book your Christmas delivery slot now at **waitrose.com**

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Was £599 **NOW £449**



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Unique products to spread cheer

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

BUILDING on the success of the Hidden Orange Christmas pudding, Heston Blumenthal has continued to excite Waitrose customers with his extravagant and quirky recipes and this Christmas is no exception.

Some of the products available include toffee apple mulled cider, cocktail chocolates and Earl Grey flavoured stollen.

Following the Waitrose offer 25 per cent off all Heston products until November 24, there will be a different set of Christmas-orientated products going on special offer each week until Christmas, from baking and cakes to chocolates and Champagne, promoted at the front of the store.

Products

To introduce you to our extended Christmas lines, tastings will be available throughout the branch on a wide range of products from the deli counter to alcohol from now until Christmas.

To help share the Christmas spirit, Waitrose Stourbridge is holding a Christmas customer shopping evening next Thursday, December 3 from 4-8pm.

With a Christmas choir in full voice and tastings galore alongside top tips from our specialists and product advisers and a Christmas quiz for the whole family, the evening is designed to introduce customers to Waitrose's unique and intriguing products and to help spread some Christmas spirit.



The drinks aisle at Waitrose Stourbridge



25 per cent off is offered on Heston A selection from the Heston range

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Jo Edwards - via Facebook

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Dear Shoppers

Christmas is a time of the year for enjoyment, family and friends, so why run around getting stressed, unable to find parking spaces and jostling with other shoppers, instead why not take your time to shop locally in Stourbridge this Christmas.

We have welcomed a few new retailers this year including Jewellery Inspired, Pump Gyms and Halloween furniture to The Ryemarket family and we are always looking at ways to attract further businesses to the town.

Now with even more retailers and with many offering click and collect services, your Christmas shopping couldn't be easier.

FREE parking on the council Ryemarket car park on Saturdays the 5th, 12th and 19th of December, should make your Christmas lists even easier to compile and tick off this year.

From Yankee Candles, Thornton's chocolates, books, jewellery, toys, perfumes and toiletry gift sets, diaries, calendars, mobile phones, games and games consoles, tablets, DVDs or blue rays, good old socks, PJs and more, our retailers have it all in store.

Even your food shop is sorted with Waitrose opening 8am – 8pm Monday to Saturday and 10am – 4pm Sundays, with their delectable Heston and Delia ranges not to mention the host of wines and champagnes.

If the shopping gets a little much you can always take time out in one of our cafés whether one of Costa's mouth watering gingerbread lattes or Mom N Co's creative cup cakes or a lovely hot sausage roll or samosa from Coffee Eclipse takes your fancy you're sure to find a cosy spot to watch the world go by.

The Ryemarket is proud to work with the Chamber of Trade and the council to put on the Stourbridge Christmas Festival which is taking place on 5th December with live music and acts, farmers' market and fairground rides which are sure to get you in the festive spirit.

We also have Santa visiting the centre every Saturday between 11am and 4pm from the 28th of November until the 19th of December to spread a little Christmas joy. It's Free and the children will receive a free gift while getting to tell Santa what they would like this year if they've been good.

As well as all the shopping don't forget Chicago's is part of The Ryemarket and whether it's your office party or if you are simply looking for a venue for a fun night out with friends it's sure to be the place to visit.

The Ryemarket will be closed on Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day giving all the hard working staff at the centre and our retailers' time to take a breath and enjoy the Christmas and New Year's festivities before the sales start.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to my team at The Ryemarket who do a wonderful job to keep the centre ticking along throughout the year.

Merry Christmas from everyone at The Ryemarket.

Regards
Kelley Dyas,
The Ryemarket
Manager



TIME TO SHOP Locally in Stourbridge

Santa will be here EVERY SATURDAY 11.00AM-4.00PM 28TH NOV UNTIL 19TH DEC Free gift for every child

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WE ARE CLOSED Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day



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Karren Brady CBE
Brand Ambassador
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Gifts all wrapped up for Christmas

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

COMPLIMENTARY gift wrapping is available on a wide range of Waitrose products, such as chocolates, flowers and wine and is available all year round.

For the festive period these have been extended to our range of gifts and build your own hampers.

Gifts can be wrapped to suit any occasion and the service is available from the welcome desk while you wait.

Four Stourbridge partners have recently completed an extensive flower wrapping course at Stourbridge which was subsidised by the partnership's Leisure Learning Scheme.

Collected

To also help ease the pressure of Christmas shopping, customers can order John Lewis items online and have them collected from any Waitrose branch the very next day. Order by 8pm for orders to be collected from 2pm the following day.

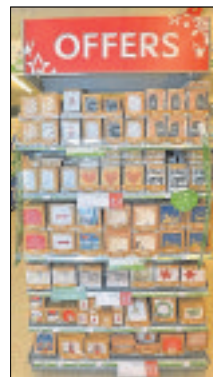
Returns can also be easily processed and Stourbridge has two iPads in store available for customers, with help at hand if you are a technophobe or cannot find what you are looking for.

As well as gifts, Waitrose entertaining food can now also be ordered including Christmas turkeys.

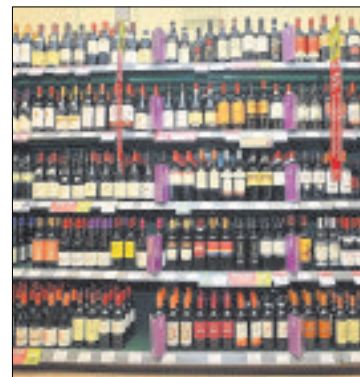
A brochure is free and available to pick up in store now, which covers all of the festive trimmings and more.



Waitrose offers a complimentary gift wrapping service



Seasonal offers at Waitrose



A large selection of fine wines is available

The Plough Inn Wollaston

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"Come and celebrate with us"

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Christmas Fayre Menu from £8.50

Served until 24th December
Lunchtime food 12 noon - 2.30pm
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It's a cracker

Classic ballet – Page 27



Comedy queen

Sarah Millican – Page 27



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BAR & GRILL

Holds Award Winning Ales

Friday 27th November



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Friday 4th December

HARDRIDE Classic Rock



Friday 11th December



THE BADCATS

Friday 18th December

NOT SO ACOUSTIC WHO



CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY



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Mumford & Sons



Monday, 8pm
Genting Arena, B'ham

Mumford & Sons capped off an incredible summer with a huge British return show at Reading Festival. They bring their tour to the Barclaycard Arena next week.
Visit www.gentingarena.co.uk

Courtney Barnett



Tonight, 7pm
Wulfrun Hall, W'ton

This indie rock singer-songwriter from Melbourne has been a sensation in Australia with her debut album Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit, recorded in just 10 days.
Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

White Christmas



Tuesday - Dec 3
Grand Theatre, W'ton

Based on the timeless classic film starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen, this heart-warming musical features 17 unforgettable Irving Berlin tunes.
Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Paul Gascoigne



Monday, 7pm
Civic Hall, W'ton

Listen to footballing hero Gazza talk about his career highs and lows, both on and off the field, when he was playing for England and Tottenham Hotspur.
Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Joe Brown
Sat at 8pm, £28.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Prodigy
Thu at 6pm, £28.20 - £40.20
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Beartooth
Sat at 7pm, £10
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Jack Tars
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Midlands Metal Crusade
Sat at 7pm, £8.80
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

The Darkerfeit Stones
Sat at 7.30pm, £13 - £15
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

China Crisis
Sun at 8pm, £15 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Darkside: Pink Floyd Show
Sat at 7pm, £15
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Paul Weller
Fri at 8pm, £38
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Slayer
Fri at 6.30pm, £39.50
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Faithless
Wed at 6pm, £35.70
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

The Waterboys
Mon at 7.30pm, £28.50 - £32.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Courtney Barnett
Fri at 7pm, £15
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Orange Goblin: 20th Anniversary Tour
Thu at 7pm, £15
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Dodgy
Fri at 7pm, £16.50
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

John Otway
Thu at 7.30pm - 11pm, £10
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Danni Nicholls
Fri at 8.30pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Green Jelly
Sun at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Replicas
Fri at 8pm,
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Guy Garvey
Sun at 8pm, £20
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Olly Murs Tribute
Tue at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Josh Groban
Sun at 8pm, £50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Free Radio Live 2015
Sat at 7pm, £38.10 - £42.50
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Ultra 90's: 90s Dance Tribute
Sat - Sun at 7.30pm - 2am, £9
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Dreaming Tree
Fri at 8pm, £5
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Mumford And Sons
Mon at 12am,
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Nazareth
Thu at 8.30pm, £22
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

The Courteeners
Thu at 7pm, £22.50
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Mainly Madness
Fri at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

XSLF
Fri - Sat at 8pm - 1am,
The Boars Head, Kidderminster, DY10 1EW. Call 01562 861870

Ruby Bridge
Fri at 10pm, £3-5
The Grapes, Stafford, ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

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Sat at 8pm, £2
Arena Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8QR.
Call 07882 768 104

The River Rea Band
Sat at 8pm, £3
Knight's Quest
Rowley Regis, B65 0EE
Call 0121 561 5599

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Wed at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Nick Harper
Fri at 8pm - 11pm, £13.25
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

CSO 2015-16: Beethoven's Eroica
Wed at 2.15pm, Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Steve Reich's Drumming
Tue at 6pm, £4 - £6.50
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Performance Platform: Tasmin Little
Tue at 1.05pm - 2pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

The 2015 Birmingham International Tattoo
Sat at 6pm, Sun at 2pm, £17.20 - £28.20
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

CSO 2015-16 Friday Night Classics: James Bond
Fri at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £47
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker
Sun at 1pm, Tue at 2pm, 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £19 - £56
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Beryl
Fri at 2.45pm, 7.45pm, Sat at 7.45pm, £17 - £20
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Dancing Queen
Sat at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe
Fri at 7pm, Sat at 2pm, 7pm, Mon at 7pm, Thu at 10.15am, 2.30pm, £7.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Guys And Dolls
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £47.50
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Treasure Island
Fri at 10.15am, 1.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7pm, Sun at 1pm, 5pm, Tue at 10.15am, 1.30pm, Wed at 10.15am, 1.30pm, Thu at 10.15am, 1.30pm,
The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

White Christmas: South Staffs Musical Theatre Company
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £19.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Yvette
Wed at 7.30pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

A Murder Is Announced
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £15.50 - £26
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

We're Going On A Bear Hunt: Little Angel Theatre (Over 2s)
Fri at 10.30am, 1.30pm, Sat at 10.30am, 2pm, Sun at 10.30am, 2pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

COMEDY

Stewart Francis: Pun Gent
Thu at 8pm - 10.30pm, £17.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Sarah Millican: Outsider
Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm, Sun at 8pm, £25 - £26
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Jeremy Hardy
Fri at 8pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Dave Gorman: Gets Straight To The Point (The PowerPoint)
Sun at 7pm - 8pm, 8pm, £24
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Sean McLoughlin: Whatever It Takes
Sun at 8.15pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

TALKS

Blofeld & Baxter: Rogues On The Road
Fri at 7.30pm, £20.35
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

An Audience With "Gazza" Paul Gascoigne
Mon at 7pm - 11.30pm, £20 - £100
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

ART EXHIBITIONS

This Is Not A Joke
Fri, Sat at 10am - 5pm,
Mon - Thu at 10am - 5pm
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Jessica Holt
Fri, Sat at 10am - 5pm,
Sun at 12pm - 4pm,
Tue at 10am - 5pm
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

OTHER EVENTS

Motorcycle Live
Sat - Thu from 9am
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Robin 2 Record & CD Fair
Sun at 11am - 4pm, Free
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

BBC Good Food Show Winter
Fri, Sat at 9.30am - 6pm,
Sun at 9.30am - 5pm,
£21.75 - £94
The NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Ballet's Christmas cracker returns

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet have brought their annual Christmas treat, *The Nutcracker*, to Birmingham Hippodrome.

The sumptuous fantasy danced to the music of Tchaikovsky will be staged from tomorrow (Fri) until Sunday, December 13.

In 1990 Sadlers Wells Royal Ballet moved from London to the West Midlands to become Birmingham Royal Ballet in what was described as 'the arts coup of the decade'.

In celebration of this momentous occasion Sir Peter Wright assembled a stellar creative team, including designer John F Macfarlane, to create his famous production of *The Nutcracker* for the city of Birmingham.

A quarter of a century later, the classic production which has captured the hearts and imaginations of generations of theatregoers returns to the BRB's home theatre to celebrate its silver anniversary.

In what has now become an annual tradition for many families, Sir Peter's production will have been performed in Birmingham a total of 429 times during its 25 sparkling years.

The spectacular sets and costumes see magical creatures come to life, flurries of snow sweep across the stage and an unforgettable transformation sequence with gigantic Christmas tree, which have helped make this production become widely regarded as one of the best in the world.

The *Nutcracker* tells the tale of young Clara and her Christmas gift of a nutcracker doll, which she receives at a family Christmas party



A magical scene from *The Nutcracker* with Jenna Roberts as the Snow Fairy

from a mysterious magician. When she sneaks downstairs to play with her doll, on the stroke of midnight she is shrunk to the size of her doll, which must defend her against King Rat's army. So is swept up in a fantastical journey to a magical land where she meets the Snow Fairy, the Sugar

Plum Fairy and, of course, her handsome prince.

Tickets range from £19 to £56 and there will be matinees as well as the nightly 7.30pm performances. Contact the Hurst Street theatre via Birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Country life for Outsider Sarah

SHE has picked up numerous awards for her witty humour and frankness on her day to day life, so it is no wonder Sarah Millican has her sell-out crowds crying with laughter.

There was no stopping the Geordie lass in entertaining her audience with her side-splitting antics at her recent gig in Telford, and fans of her no-nonsense approach are in for a treat when she performs at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow (Fri) and Saturday night.

The TV and radio comedy panel regular is currently touring on her latest show *Sarah Millican: Outsider* which draws upon her recent move to the countryside for some of the biggest laughs.

Her show focused on her family life, tales of her cats: Brody and Ripley, her dog and her new husband. But the comedienne also covers thornier issues, such as body image to bullying. The South Shields comic may also reveal why she was pleased to turn 40 this year.

Sarah has appeared at The Royal Variety Performance and her debut DVD, *Chatterbox Live*, became the biggest selling stand-up DVD by a female comedian. She has released three more since. She has notched up appearances on top TV shows including *QI*, *Mock the Week*, *Have I Got News For You*, *8 Out of 10 Cats*, *Live at the Apollo*, *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow*, and has chatted to Graham Norton, Jonathan Ross and Alan Carr on their respective chat shows.

Sarah's skills are in constantly keeping her audience on their toes with her constant down to earth comedy.

Tar very much for these rock veterans

KEY gigs over the next few days include wry Australian indie rocker Courtney Barnett at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow (Fri), 80s synth popsters China Crisis at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Sunday and folk-rockers The Waterboys at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Monday.

Punk rock stalwarts in The Jack Tars at Robin 2 on Wednesday include Captain Sensible, Mike Peters and Slim Jim Phantom. Rock veteran Joe Brown will be looking back over a career that stretches from the 1950s, and no doubt plucking his ukulele, at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday, and Josh Groban will sing show tunes at a sold out Symphony Hall on Sunday.

Comedian Dave gets to the point

FANS have two chances to catch stand-up comedian Dave Gorman in the West Midlands on his latest tour, following the success of his *Googlewhack* and *Modern Life Is Goodish* shows.

This time the comic from Stafford will use the medium of Powerpoint to reveal his ideas. Dave Gorman Gets Straight to the Point tonight (Thu) at Birmingham's Symphony Hall and again at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Sunday.

Upcoming comedy shows include Sarah Millican (see above), Stewart Francis' *Pun Gent Tour* at Symphony Hall on December 3, Noel Fielding at the Civic Hall on December 5.

Young Fathers to join the Modfather

THE Modfather himself, Paul Weller, will be in concert at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham city centre tomorrow (Fri).

The former Jam man's last single was *I'm Where I Should Be* from his acclaimed 2015 album *Saturn's Pattern*, and it will be followed by *Pick It Up* next month.

Weller will be supported by Scottish trio Young Fathers who won the Mercury Prize for debut album *Dead* last year and this year released second album *White Men Are Black Men Too*.

It's full-on dance-rock at the Barclaycard Arena with Faithless on December 2 and The Prodigy on December 3.

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in words and pictures by Geoff Tristram

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The rolling hills and twisty Lake District roads

Leave car behind to see more of the fantastic Lake District

LOOKING across across rolling green countryside to the imposing western fells of the Lake District, I remarked: "That's a fantastic view."

"It's the best in the country," replied the host. He certainly had a point. The five-star, multi-award winning Hazel Bank Country House Hotel in Borrowdale has a spectacular vista in virtually any direction. We were about to see a lot of it by bus and boat.

There is no doubt that Lakeland enjoys some of the finest scenery in the country, if not the world, which is why it attracts visitors from all corners of the globe.

With its spectacular mountains and fells, picture postcard lakes and narrow tortuous roads it offers something for just about everyone, even if you have to pack your waterproofs much of the time. Walkers,

By Bill McCarthy

climbers, sailors, rowers, poets and literary giants have all found something to inspire them. Philanthropist John Ruskin and poet Williams Wordsworth put down lasting roots in the area as did children's novelist Beatrix Potter.

Lakeland is not huge and with millions of visitors, many using their cars on the twisty roads and fearsome passes, it can turn a holiday into a traffic-dodging nightmare. So a new initiative to get people more in touch with nature and out of their vehicles has been launched.

The new 'See More' project funded by the Department of Transport is encouraging visitors to leave cars at their hotels and find new ways to explore the Lake District and Cumbria. New additions for 2015 include a tour bus exploring the North Lakes and

extended early evening services on the 'hop on, hop off' Honister Rambler bus service, alongside regular cruises on Derwentwater aboard the Keswick Launch.

Our attempt at dumping the car took us to the wish hotel at Rothwaite in Borrowdale. The seven-bedroom establishment offers five-star accommodation and cuisine for those looking for a quiet break away from it all or more vigorous walks and climbs.

Bespoke

The family-run establishment offers bespoke rooms with the highest level of fixtures and fittings. A true family establishment, host Gary MacCrae is a Keswick man who knows the area like the back of his hand. He is front of house, his wife Donna does the cooking and their family fill in at various points.

It is just far enough off the road to be a

haven for red squirrels, deer and other wildlife, and close enough to the bus stop just 150 yards away.

It is ideally situated for the Honister Rambler, a bus which can take you where others fear to drive, including the Honister Slate Mine and the picturesque village of Buttermere on its circuitous route from Keswick, beyond Derwentwater and back to Keswick. An open-top double decker also operates between villages.

You can comfortably leave your vehicle behind and take advantage of deals such as a joint all-day bus and boat ticket for Derwentwater and the Keswick and Honister area. An Explorer ticket covers the whole of Cumbria and North Lancashire.

Of course, there's also Shanks' Pony and two wheels, but it does make sense to use other transport. The roads can be a nightmare and you miss so much while driving.

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Peter Capaldi

Doctor Who (BBC1, 8.05pm)
The Doctor faces the greatest challenge of his many lives when he is trapped, alone, in a world unlike any he has ever seen. Pursued by a fearsome creature known only as 'the Veil', the Time Lord must attempt the impossible in one final test, and if he makes it through, the long-lost world of Gallifrey is waiting. Peter Capaldi takes centre-stage in what is effectively a one-man episode for the first half of this year's series finale.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30 Football Focus.** **12.00 BBC News.** Weather. **12.10 Formula 1:** Abu Dhabi Grand Prix - Qualifying. The battle for pole in the final round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.05 Tennis:** Davis Cup Final. Belgium v Great Britain. **5.10 Celebrity Mastermind.** (R) **5.40 BBC News.** 5.50 Regional Programme.
6.00 Pointless Celebrities. David Coulthard, Mark Webber, Allan McNish, Claire Williams, Murray Walker, Nigel Mansell, Christian Horner and Suzi Perry take part in a Formula One-themed edition of the quiz.
6.50 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the pro-celebrity dancing contest returns home to the studio following the trip away to Blackpool's Tower Ballroom. While the remaining seven couples might have come back to more familiar surroundings, there's no less glamour on offer, as Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood appraise their performances in Ballroom and Latin routines. The stars are also given a chance to improve their initial scores in a Quickstepathon. Once all the competitors have had a second chance to dance, the viewing public will decide which two pairs will face each other in tomorrow's dance-off, which as ever will see one unlucky duo leave the contest.
8.05 Doctor Who. The Doctor is stranded alone on a strange world, and must face a creature known only as 'the Veil' as his quest to return to Gallifrey grows closer to a conclusion than ever before.
9.00 Casualty. Cal contests the outcome of Mattie's paternity test, and makes a shocking discovery about his own history in the process. Meanwhile, Jacob proves he is now in control of his anger.
9.50 The National Lottery Live. Special guest Jason Donovan performs live.
10.00 BBC News. Weather.
10.20 Match of the Day. Highlights of Manchester City v Southampton and Leicester City v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.
11.40 The Apprentice. (R)
12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Race to Super Bowl 50. **6.55 Film:** Tennessee's Partner. (1955) **8.20 Formula 1:** Abu Dhabi Grand Prix - Practice Two. **9.55 Formula 1:** Abu Dhabi Grand Prix - Practice Three. **11.05 F1 Rewind - Amazing Races.** **12.05 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip.** (R) **12.35 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip.** (R) **1.05 Live Snooker:** UK Championship. The second round gets under way at the Barbican Centre in York. **4.30 Final Score.** **5.10 Flog It!** **5.40 The Great Pottery Throw Down.** (R)
6.40 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo traces the early 20th-century roots of the Spanish Civil War, which divided his family and sent his father into exile. The former politician discovers a nation fractured at the time by social tensions and regional loyalties, which today offer a rich diversity of cultures to delight the tourist. After arriving in Majorca from Barcelona, Michael spoils himself enjoying spectacular scenic views aboard a 1912 vintage railway and a 1913 tram. Last in the series. (R)
7.40 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. Michelle Dockery narrates a documentary examining the wildlife of the east Asian country, beginning with the animals that live on the island of Honshu. (R)
8.40 Dad's Army. Walker is caught smuggling Italian POWs out of camp at night, but far from being a traitor, he is furthering the war effort - and making some money on the side. (R)
9.10 QI XL. Bill Bailey, Jo Brand and Greg Davies join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Stephen Fry to meander through miscellaneous marriage and mating matters.
9.55 Film: Papadopoulos & Sons. (2012) Premiere. A Greek millionaire loses everything he has in a financial crisis, leaving him with only one asset - his share in the fish and chip shop his father used to run. He is forced to return to his roots and work with his laidback brother to revive the family business. Comedy, starring Stephen Dillane.
11.40 Snooker: UK Championship. Action from the second round at the Barbican Centre in York.
12.30 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. **2.30 This Is BBC Two.** **5.45 The A to Z of TV Gardening.** (R)

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockout Street. **6.10 Bottom Knockout Street.** (R) **6.25 Bottom Knockout Street.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.05 Oddbods.** (R) **7.10 Sooty.** (R) **7.25 Super 4.** (R) **7.40 Adventure Time.** **8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble.** **8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **9.00 Jessie.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.30 ITV News.** Weather. **12.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.45 Judge Rinder.** (R) **2.45 Doc Martin.** (R) **3.45 Midsomer Murders.** (R) **5.45 Regional Programme.** Weather.
6.00 ITV News. Weather.
6.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.
7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Actress Sally Phillips, musician Rick Wakeman, professional snowboarder Jenny Jones and impressionist Alistair McGowan pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser, as Bradley Walsh hosts another star-studded edition of the show.
8.00 The X Factor. This year's live show phase continues, as the remaining would-be stars face the fifth round of pulse-quickening performances. As ever, Simon Cowell, Nick Grimshaw, Rita Ora and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini are on hand to appraise the competitor's talents, and presenters Caroline Flack and Olly Murs offer the singers much-needed moral support on-stage. As always, tomorrow's show will see yet another act eliminated following another tense sing-off.
9.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle.
10.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. Luther star Idris Elba joins Jonathan in the studio, along with Celebrity Juice host Keith Lemon. Hollywood actress Liv Tyler and wildlife documentary David Attenborough.
11.50 ITV News. Weather. **12.05 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Show Me the Telly.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.05 Race of Champions 2015.** **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00 The Morning Line.** **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** **11.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Newbury and Newcastle. **4.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
6.00 Come Dine with Me. Speed-dating expert Nikki Yucel hosts the final dinner party in Ipswich, and Kerrie Pankhurst reveals her feelings for another dinner before the winner is announced. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. Examining strange weather events from around the world, including cities buried in snow, plagues of locusts falling from the sky, and changes in temperature that boil lakes and leave frogs frozen solid.
8.00 Grand Designs: House of the Year. Kevin McCloud visits three more houses competing for a place on the finalist shortlist, including a timber and steel clad home in Dungeness, a pink brick house in Belfast, and an 18th century converted mill in rural Scotland. At the end of the show he announces the overall winner of the Royal Institute of British Architects House of the Year 2015, before visiting the house and discovering why it has been crowned the best new home in Britain. Last in the series. (R)
9.00 Film: 2 Guns. (2013) Premiere. Two undercover agents - one working for the DEA the other for the Navy - infiltrate a drug cartel, only for the planned sting operation to go disastrously wrong. Both operatives become fugitives and must work together to survive - but both keep their true identity a secret, mistakenly thinking the other is a real criminal. Action adventure, starring Denzel Washington.
11.10 TFI Friday. Chris Evans hosts the lively entertainment show, featuring Wolf Alice. (R)
12.15 Film: Easy A. (2010) **2.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** (R) **2.55 Fargo.** (R) **3.50 Hollyoaks.** (R) **5.55 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **9.30 The Saturday Show.** **11.40 Film: Annie Claus Is Coming to Town.** (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer. **1.30 Film: The Christmas Shepherd.** (2014) Drama, starring Teri Polo. **3.20 Film: Finding Mrs Claus.** (2012) Premiere. Comedy, starring Mira Sorvino. **5.10 Film: Christmas in Conway.** (2013) Premiere. Festive romantic drama, starring Andy Garcia.
7.00 5 News Weekend.
7.05 Police Interceptors: Under Attack. Special episode featuring footage of members of the unit coming under attack while trying to keep the bad guys off the streets, from axe-wielding criminals to thugs who are handy with their fists. (R)
8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Delroy and Kevin face a web of deceit in an Italian delicatessen in South London as they chase a huge debt amounting to £29,000. Meanwhile, Steve and Paul must evict a tenant in North London who has not paid her rent for over 18 months, before heading to Cambridgeshire to make one of their most emotional evictions to date. Plus, Brian and Delroy track down a pensioner in Surrey who owes £15,000 for a business he bought four years ago. (R)
9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Huddersfield Town v Middlesbrough, Queens Park Rangers v Leeds United, Barnsley v Sheffield United and Plymouth Argyle v Leyton Orient. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers.
10.20 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks. A countdown of illusions that have stood the test of time on the small screen, featuring Penn and Teller, Derren Brown, David Blaine, Paul Daniels and Dynamo. (R)
1.05 The Gadget Show. Jon Bentley explores the latest technology for the home. (R) **1.55 SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming. **3.10 Sapp Blatter Exposed: The Fall of FIFA.** (R) **4.00 Gypsies on Benefits & Proud.** (R) **4.50 Make It Big.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth 7.15 Don't Tell the Bride 8.15 Top Gear India Special 9.45 Live at the Apollo 10.30 Russell Howard's Good News 11.00 Family Guy 1.15 Josh 1.45 Rent a Cop 2.15 The Fear 2.45 Live at the Apollo 3.30 Russell Howard's Good News 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Empire of the Seas: How the Navy Forged the Modern World 8.00 Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues 9.00 The Bridge 11.00 Catching History's Criminals: The Forensic Story 12.00 Burt Bacharach: A Life in Song 1.30 Top of the Pops: 1980 2.05 Easy Listening Hits at the BBC 3.05 Sounds of the 70s 3.35 Close
ITV2
12.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 1.30 The Xtra Factor 2.30 Little Mix: The Hot Desk 2.45 Scorpion 3.40 You've Been Framed! 4.10 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 5.40 Film: Hulk (2003) 8.25 Film: Back to the Future (1985) 10.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Now! 11.50 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show 12.50 Plebs 1.45 Vinyl Tap 2.25 Animal Practice 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.35 A Touch of Frost 3.45 Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) 5.50 Wycliffe 6.55 Rosemary & Thyme 9.00 Colditz 11.00 Lewis 1.00 Wycliffe 1.55 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
12.45 Live Darts: Players Championship. The opening second-round matches. 5.00 Storage Wars: New York 6.00 Fifth Gear 7.00 Live Darts: Players Championship. The concluding second-round matches. 11.00 Film: Midnight Run (1988) 1.35 The Big Fish Off 2.35 Movies Now 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen
E4
11.35 Couples Come Dine with Me 1.35 The Goldbergs 2.30 Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) 4.20 Rise (ish) 6.55 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Shallow Hal (2001) 10.15 Gogglebox 12.25 The Inbetweeners 1.30 The IT Crowd 2.30 Drifters 2.55 Rules of Engagement 4.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 4.55 Revenge
Film4
11.00 Meet Dave (2008) 1.00 Paradox (2012) 2.00 Live Bandits (1981) 5.05 Congo (1995) 7.20 Zoolander (2001) 9.00 The Iceman (2012) 11.10 American Mary (2012) 1.15 Dorian Gray (2009) 3.35 Close

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CHOICE



Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber (Channel 4, 7.30pm)
It may not have the same name recognition of the Spitfire, but the Vulcan plane played a vital role in protecting UK interests during the Cold War era, and was also responsible for the longest raid in British military history when it was used to attack enemy targets in the Falkland Islands. So, it was only fitting that the last airworthy Vulcan bomber, the XH558, was given decent send-off. In the run-up to its final flight, engineer Guy Martin is given unprecedented access to the aircraft, learning more about its history and talking to the crews who faced the awesome responsibility of potentially dropping nuclear bombs. He also gets to fly in formation with the Vulcan.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00** Fern Britton Meets Shane Lynch. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.10** Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The final round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.15** Escape to the Country. **4.15** Sons of Praise. **4.50** The Hunt. (R) **5.50** BBC News.
6.10 Regional Programme.
6.20 Countryfile. John Craven visits a seed bank in Shropshire, where the Woodland Trust is working to preserve Britain's endangered trees. Ellie Harrison meets artist Matt Sewell and learns how he captures the character of birds in his art. Adam Henson investigates a plan to paint cattle to make them more visible to drivers at night, and Tom Heap reports on plans to use insects as feed for farm animals. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.
7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal the results of last night's votes, before the two highest scoring pairs compete in a dance-off. Plus, a musical performance from Adam Lambert.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the second visit in this series to Plas Newydd on the Isle of Anglesey. The team examine rarities including a cabinet with a secret function, a magazine rack made by celebrated designer Piero Fornasetti, a collection of historical items related to deafness, a Chinese silver punchbowl and a photo that has a connection to the Apollo 11 mission.
9.00 The Hunt. Animals on the hunt in deserts and grasslands, where neither predator or prey has anywhere to hide. Featuring footage of cheetahs, eagles, lions, hot rod ants and headlight beetles.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea at White Hart Lane and Norwich City v Arsenal at Carrow Road.
11.50 Citizen Khan. Mr Khan opens a fried chicken shop. (R)
12.20 The Graham Norton Show. (R)
1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** An Island Parish: Falklands. (R) **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **11.00** My Life on a Plate; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **11.50** Tennis: Davis Cup Final. **3.15** Football: Women's Euro 2017 Qualifiers. England v Bosnia and Herzegovina (Kick-off 3.30pm). **5.25** Live Snooker: UK Championship.
7.00 Robert Peston Goes Shopping. The history of the retail trade in Britain concludes with a look at how the high street has been hit hard in recent times by the rise in online shopping and the financial crash. From Amazon to Zavvi, and the world's first pop-up mall in east London, Robert shows how the everyday shopping experience has changed and predicts how people will buy their goods in the future. Contributors include Amazon's UK MD Christopher North, ASDS boss Nick Robertson, and Sainsbury's chief Justin King. Last in the series. (R)
8.00 Ireland with Simon Reeve. Part two of two. The second leg of Simon's journey begins at the Giant's Causeway, before visiting a kelp farm on Rathlin Island. He heads to the Dark Hedges in Co Antrim, one of the filming locations from Game of Thrones, and visits Belfast for the July 12 Festivities, discovering how the event has divided the city. He also learns more about Cromwell's influence on Ireland, attends the Gaze film festival, and meets monkeys at an animal sanctuary in the Wicklow mountains.
9.00 The Secret History of the British Garden. The extraordinary changes that occurred in the 19th century, as advances in technology made gardens more lavish, but also more widely available. Monty pays a visit to Queen Victoria's royal retreat at Osborne and Derby's Arboretum, which was the country's first public park. He also investigates the scientific secrets behind the establishment of botanical gardens in Kew and Edinburgh.
10.00 Film: The Cider House Rules. (1999) Drama, starring Tobey Maguire and Michael Caine.
12.00 Snooker: UK Championship. **12.50** Snooker: UK Championship Extra. **2.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.45** Holby City. (R) **4.45** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Sings Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooby. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** The Chase. (R) **2.35** The X Factor. (R) **4.20 Film:** The Mummy Returns. (2001) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Brendan Fraser.
6.35 Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Jekyll and Hyde. Robert is tormented by the recent tragedies that have befallen him, causing him to lose control of his transformations. Bulstrode reveals that military intelligence is holding Ravi prisoner, but will release him in return for Robert's help in investigating a series of strange killings. Robert takes on the case, and joins forces a vigilante also on the murderer's trail – but when the truth behind the slaughter emerges, it leads to his new ally becoming a dangerous threat that Bulstrode wants eliminated.
8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present last night's results, before the two lowest scoring acts compete against each other to decide who will be eliminated from the contest.
9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present as the second week of the celebrity challenge draws to a close. The famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle, struggling to complete the tough daily tasks and dreaded Bushtucker Trials, but has anyone emerged as the viewers' favourite and a possible king or queen?
10.30 ITV News; Weather. **10.45** **Off Their Rockers.** Royston events the ultimate mobile phone case. (R)
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the latest round of fixtures in England's top flight.
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **6.05** The King of Queens. (R) **6.25** The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** Race of Champions 2015. **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.45** The Simpsons. (R) **2.20** Emergency Animal Hospital. **3.20** Film: Parental Guidance. (2012) Premiere. Comedy, with Billy Crystal and Bette Midler. **5.25** Film: Sister Act. (1992) Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg.
7.15 Channel 4 News.
7.30 Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber. The mechanic joins a select crew of engineers working to prepare the last Vulcan bomber that is capable of flight for a farewell tour of the UK. The programme features contributions from former crew members, who recall its service in conflicts from the 1950s to the Falklands, as well as serving as Britain's nuclear deterrent.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie realises that she urgently needs Allison's help, while Quinn's plans undergo a significant change. Claire Danes, Miranda Otto, Rupert Friend and Sebastian Koch star.
10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)
11.10 Film: Bullet to the Head. (2012) A hitman and a police detective join forces to seek revenge on the man who murdered both their partners. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone, Sung Kang and Christian Slater.
12.50 Grand Designs Australia. Peter Maddison meets Sarah and Alistair Brodie-Fraser, a couple planning to build an English-style farmhouse in Queensland. **1.45** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. Featuring a man who only cleans his kitchen at Easter and Christmas, and a woman whose three-bedroom flat has not been given proper attention in 19 years. (R) **2.40** Four in a Bed. (R) **4.55** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. Using squid to prepare recipes. (R) **5.10** Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes, a – if they are brave enough to buy it with what they have won. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.30** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.40** Zack and Quack. (R) **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.25** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Wandas and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Access. (R) **12.05** Film: Road to Christmas. (2006) Romantic comedy drama, starring Jennifer Grey and Clark Gregg. **1.55** Film: The Heart of Christmas. (2011) Premiere. Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure. **3.35** Film: The Little Mermaid. (1989) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Jodi Benson. **5.15** Film: Deck the Halls. (2006) Christmas comedy, starring Danny DeVito.
7.05 Police Interceptors: Dog Squad. A look at the police dog teams in the Cleveland and Durham specialist operations unit, observing the highly trained hounds and their handlers in training and in action. (R)
8.05 Impractical Jokers US. The guys pose as reporters getting public reactions to a fictional story, draw portraits of passers-by, queue jump at the theatre, and try to sell a bizarre flat.
8.30 Impractical Jokers US. The guys work in a bakery, where they must eat customers' cakes and challenge them to eating contests. The loser then has to pose as an avant garde artist.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Gran Turismo. (2008) Misanthropic Korean War veteran Walt leads an isolated existence, and has a tense relationship with his family and nothing but contempt for his neighbours. When a teenager attempts to steal his prized car, he ends up trying to reform the thief, making a connection with the boy's relatives and defending them from a street gang. Drama, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood.
11.25 Film: Justice. (2011) Thriller, with Nicolas Cage and January Jones. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix – Highlights **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **12.20** Josh **12.50** Rent a Cop **1.20** Russell Howard's Good News **1.50** World's Worst Place to Be a Woman? Stacey Dooley Investigates **2.45** Sunny D **3.00** Footballers. Sex, Money: What's Gone Wrong? **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? **9.00** Film: The Deep (2012) **10.30** The Lighthouse Stevensons **11.30** Digging for Ireland **12.30** Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? **1.30** Icebound: The Greatest Dog Story Ever Told **2.30** Lost Land of the Tiger **3.30** Close
ITV2
1.55 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **2.55** Catchphrase **3.40** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **5.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **6.50** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** You've Been Framed! **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Pheas **12.35** Reality Bites **1.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.05** Lawson: The Hot Desk **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.50 Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) **2.50** Midsomer Murders **6.55** Sunday Night at the Palladium **7.55** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Colditz **11.00** Film: Closing the Ring (2007) **1.15** Film: 10 Little Indians (1974)
ITV4
12.45 Live Darts: Players Championship. The quarter-finals. **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **5.55** River Monsters **7.00** Live Darts: Players Championship. The semi-finals and final. **11.00** Film: Driven (2001) **1.15** Ray Mears' Close Encounters **2.20** Nitro Circus
E4
12.30 Film: Astro Boy (2009) **2.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: The Simpsons Movie (2007) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory **10.40** The Inbetweeners **11.50** The IT Crowd **12.55** Film: Underworld: Awakening (2012) **2.35** Rules of Engagement **3.20** Hollywoods
Film4
11.00 Porco Rosso (1992) **1.00** Big Business (1998) **3.00** Anastasia (1997) **4.50** The Three Stooges (2012) **6.40** Cutthroat Island (1995) **9.00** Red (2010) **11.15** Me and You (2012) **1.05** The Station Agent (2003) **3.10** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
A Christmas Visitor, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A couple have not celebrated Christmas for 11 years, ever since the death of their son in the first Gulf War. However, their spiritual faith is restored when they are visited by a mysterious stranger who is the same age their boy would have been, had he survived. Drama, starring Reagan Pasternak. (2002)

TUESDAY
Possession, BBC1, 11.50pm
Rival academics get embroiled in the hunt for proof that Victorian poets Randolph Henry Ash and Christabel LaMotte were having an affair – but their rivalry is tempered by a seemingly irresistible attraction between them. Drama from playwright Neil LaBute, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. (2002)

WEDNESDAY
The Road, BBC1, 11.35pm
The world is devastated by a cataclysm that wipes out all the plants and animals and leaves the few remaining humans desperately struggling to survive. A man and his son make an arduous journey across a desolate America inhabited by cannibals, in search of sanctuary further south. Drama based on Cormac McCarthy's novel, starring Viggo Mortensen. (2009)



Mercury Rising, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
The Heart of Christmas, Channel 5, 11.30am
A successful businesswoman struggling to make time for her children is moved by the story of a boy who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Realising he may not live long enough to see another Christmas, his parents decided to celebrate the holiday in October. Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure. (2011)

FRIDAY
Mercury Rising, ITV, 10.40pm
A top-secret government agency has developed a seemingly unbreakable code – only for an autistic boy to crack it in an instant. Assassins succeed in gunning down his parents, but a maverick FBI agent investigating their deaths finds the child hiding in a closet, and resolves to shield him from the hitmen on his trail. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis, Alec Baldwin and Miko Hughes. (1998)

Series continues to prove wild at heart

Over the past few years, Ben Fogle's New Lives in the Wild series has seen him meet people all over the world who have given up the rat race and started afresh in some of the remotest places on the planet.

However, his new series, which continues on Channel 5 tonight, looks at those a bit closer at home, who have looked to escape the daily grind in search of a happier, and often more self-sufficient, life elsewhere in the British Isles.

It's the same concept, but on a lower budget, if you will.

Of course, using sticks to live in a remote destination is familiar territory for Fogle, who first found fame in 2000 living on the remote Hebridean island of Taransay for BBC reality series, Castaway.

And in his heart of hearts the presenter still nurtures a dream of turning his back on his fame and fortune to live his own 'wilderness'.

He has even recently pinpointed an uninhabited Scandinavian island where he hopes to set up home.

"Island living is where I began on Taransay, and I have such fond memories of it," he explains.

"I'm only sorry that I don't think television is brave enough to make a series like that [Castaway] again – taking people out of their natural environment for a year.

"I think it's lost its innocence these days – none of us went there to become rich and famous, which seems to be a focus of so much reality TV nowadays. We simply wanted to establish a self-sufficient community."

Nevertheless, when you watch Fogle on TV and look at his prolific CV over the past few years, it appears unlikely that he could spend a year in any one place without getting itchy feet.

And the presenter is back on his travels once again for tonight's latest instalment of New Lives in the Wild UK.

Ben uses his considerable charm and empathy to bond with Simon and Debbie, a former estate agent and lawyer.

At the ages of 48 and 51 respectively, the couple swapped city life for a hidden valley smallholding in the middle of Exmoor National Park.

But it's not been easy by any stretch of the imagination.

With more than 100 animals – some kept for companionship, others destined for the table – the couple's life on Exmoor is a constant battle and one they cannot always win, as Ben soon learns.

During his stay, the host discovers how to rear, kill and cook 'extreme free range' pigs, then tries his hand at foraging in steep woodland and attempts to clear an old orchard with a stubborn horse who suffers from hay fever.

As with all the people he has met during the series, Ben has admiration for what the couple are trying to do.

"Over the last few years, there's a fast-growing group of people looking to regress and turn back the clock," he says.

"It's not been easy for any of them and their bravery and resilience is inspiring."



Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild UK, Thursday, Channel 5, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Dino Autopsy: T-Rex, Channel 5, 9pm
In the past, palaeontologists relied on bones and fossils to build a picture of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. But now in this documentary, they get to take a step forward as cutting-edge special effects, created in collaboration with esteemed experts, are used to create an anatomically complete replica of the prehistoric predator, which scientists can touch, smell – and dissect. To give you a sense of scale, the T-Rex has teeth up to 30cm long, eyes the size of grapefruits and a heart that's 100 times bigger than a human's. However, it also has proportionally tiny arms, and here the experts try to solve the riddle of how the dinosaur managed to use them to feed. They'll also be asking how the creature procreated and whether it was warm or cold-blooded.

TUESDAY
Kirstie's Handmade Christmas, Channel 4, 8pm
It's now almost as traditional as egg nog and mince pies for Kirstie Allsopp to present a festive craft-making special. And here, as we enter December, is 2015's version – what's more, it will be shown over three nights, which means we can look forward to heaps of inspiration for our own festive

arrangements. The first edition sees Kirstie journey to Switzerland, a country that embraces Christmas and begins its celebrations in early December. She learns how to make a show-stopping garland, boozy fondue and personalised paper-cut pictures. Upcycling expert Jay Blades demonstrates how to turn a bookcase into a doll's house or castle, while makers and bakers try to impress with their trees, advent calendars and cakes.

Capital BBC1, 9pm
If you can't get enough of the excellent Toby Jones and Rachael Stirling in Detectivists on BBC4, then this compelling drama should leave you more than satisfied. This week, as the 'We Want What You Have' campaign intensifies, the worried residents of Pepys Road demand greater action from the authorities. However, while DI Mill looks for a breakthrough, other forces continue to transform the fortunes of the road's inhabitants. Returning home after her break, Arabella is concerned to find that rather than getting the house in order, Roger has hired the alluring Matya to help with the kids.

WEDNESDAY
This is Tottenham BBC2, 9pm
In 2000, David Lammy became the MP for Tottenham, an area he knew well having grown up close to the Broadwater estate. He witnessed the riots there 30 years ago, and was aware of the problems in the area. During his time in office, other problems have hit Lammy's constituency, including the child abuse scandals of Baby P and Victoria Climbié, the shooting of Mark Duggan, and the 2011 riots. This documentary goes behind-the-scenes at Lammy's advice surgery, where around 6,000 local people call for help every year, offering an insight into the MP's work as he attempts to help a woman find her missing son and a young mother desperately attempting to get her child the life-saving operation he needs.



Kirstie's Handmade Christmas, Tuesday, Channel 4, 8pm

THURSDAY
The Secret Life of 6 Year Olds Channel 4, 8pm
The documentary following three groups of youngsters moves on to the six-year-olds, who have the benefit of two years at school and are beginning to focus much more on their own identities. Kash and Elvin are keen to become group leader, but chaos ensues when the others cannot decide how to choose – by vote or by arm wrestle. Gentle Beatrice struggle to cope with defeat in a tug-of-war, asking her friends if they know the meaning of the word 'competitive', and there is romance in the playground as Elouisa declares her feelings for Kash.

FRIDAY
MOTD Live: FA Cup 2nd Round BBC2, 7.30pm
Salford City v Hartlepool United (Kick-off 7.55pm). Action from the game at Moor Lane. Northern Premier League side Salford – co-owned by five ex-Manchester United stars from the 'Class of '92' - will be looking to cause another upset, having already defeated Hartlepool's League Two rivals Notts County 2-0 in the first round. Striker Danny Webber scored the opening goal in that game, before a sublime strike from Richie Allen wrapped up a famous victory.

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All orders received on or before the 15th November will be sent out on Tuesday 1st December.
All orders thereafter will be posted within 48 hours of receipt, until the closing date of 15th December.
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Great black Friday deals

Commercial feature

Thinking about replacing your current car? Well, you're in luck because when it comes to buying a new or used car you'll find it very difficult indeed to beat the impressive deals offered by Dudley Motor Company, T. Wall Vauxhall, Halesowen Motor House and Stourbridge Motor House. No, it's true – offers on cars don't come better than this.

Due to the huge success of their BIG event recently, these five dealerships have combined forces to offer you incredible savings on a vast range of new and used cars during 'Black Friday Weekend.'

There's 0% interest-free* finance along with generous finance deposits on selected new cars. And if you're thinking of travelling along with used car route, all four dealerships have plenty of models to choose from and all used vehicles will be reduced in price from this Black Friday, November 27 and over the following weekend up until close of business on the Sunday. With fantastic low-rate HP and PCP

(Personal Contract Purchase) plans available there will never been a better time to buy a new or used car.

And there's more good news for new car buyers too, as there will also be big surprise offers on the part of Vauxhall not known by the sales team at the moment.

Vauxhall Black Country Group

Dudley Motor Company Vauxhall, Trindle Road, Dudley; T. Wall Vauxhall, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford; Halesowen Motor House Vauxhall, Dudley Road, Halesowen; Stourbridge Motor House (Vauxhall), 47 High St, Stourbridge.

Long established as one of the UK's market-leading motor manufacturers, Vauxhall offers a superb range of models straddling all areas of the market, from the ADAM and new Viva city cars and ever popular Corsa, to the sleek new Astra, newly-revised Insignia, the big-selling MOKKA crossover and two leading MPVs, the 5-seat Meriva and 7-seat Zafira Tourer. All models are amongst the best sellers in their respective market sectors.

Ford

T. Wall Ford, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford.
Ford is the UK market leader in terms of sales, its range featuring top-selling favourites such as the KA, Fiesta, Focus, Mondeo and five spacious MPVs, namely the five-seat B-MAX, five-seat C-MAX and 7-seat Grand C-MAX, the sleek new 7-seat S-MAX and Galaxy people carrier. Then there's excellent Kuga crossover and impressive new EcoSport compact crossover to consider.

Suzuki

Halesowen Motor House Suzuki, Dudley Road, Halesowen.

Over at Halesowen Motor House on Dudley Road, they represent Vauxhall and Suzuki. Suzuki is one of the fastest-growing car brands in the UK and sales continue to rise. That can hardly be seen as surprising as Suzuki's cars are exactly right for today's motoring conditions. They're very economical, clean when it comes to CO2 emissions, inexpensive to own and very affordable to purchase. What's more, Suzuki's cars are stylish, practical and great to drive, too. Little wonder that there is so much demand for its vehicles.



Why not check out the outstanding new and used car range at these five family-owned dealerships this Black Friday Weekend, particularly as you'll find plenty of exceptional deals from Friday, November 27 up until Sunday close of business at 4.30pm.

Dudley Motor Company, T. Wall Vauxhall, Halesowen Motor Company and Stourbridge Motor Company are strategically placed to cover the whole of the Black Country.

The friendly sales teams understand that buying a car has to be a considered decision. So they're offering you an opportunity to take your time over this forthcoming weekend so that you are able to make an informed decision, take a test drive and discuss your requirements within a relaxed and pleasant, non-pressurised environment. That way, you'll gain a car that's exactly right for you taking into

account your preferred model, specification, car tax and insurance details and lifestyle requirements.

The 'Black Friday Weekend' starts this Friday at the following locations across the Black Country:

Dudley Motor Company (Vauxhall), Trindle Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 7AY. Tel: 01384 454100

T. Wall Vauxhall, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8XB. Tel: 01384 288333

T. Wall Ford, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8XB. Tel: 01384 282 900

Halesowen Motor House, Vauxhall and Suzuki, Dudley Road, Halesowen B63 3NH. Tel: 0121 503 0001

Stourbridge Motor House (Vauxhall), 47 High St, Stourbridge DY8 4DG Tel: 01384 447970

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 85g/km.*

*£5,705 discount available on vehicles ordered between 27th and 30th November 2015, which are subsequently registered by 31st December 2015. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.



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BLACK FRIDAY PRICE REDUCTIONS THIS WEEK

<p>11/60 Mercedes C-Class C180 CGI Blue Efficiency Sport 4dr Tip-Automatic, 53k, Silver, Alloys, Half Leather, CD, Climate, E/Windows £12495 / £57 Per Week</p>	<p>09/09 Citroen Berlingo Multispace XTR 1.6 HDI Diesel 61k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £5695 / £27 Per Week</p>
<p>06/56 Jaguar XJ Sovereign 2.7TDV1 Diesel Automatic 60k, Silver, Alloys, Premium Cream Leather, Sat-Nav, Top Spec - Every Extra £9995 / £51 Per Week</p>	<p>11/60 Vauxhall Meriva Exclusive 1.4 Turbo 39k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, E/Windows £5495 / £26 Per Week</p>
<p>06/06 Mercedes CLS CLS320 CDI Diesel 4dr Tip Automatic, 75k, Silver, Black Leather, Alloys, Sat-Nav, Climate Control £9495 / £49 Per Week</p>	<p>12/62 Citroen C3 Picasso VTR Plus 1.6 HDI Diesel *ONLY £30 ROAD TAX* 112k, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week</p>
<p>07/07 Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDi Diesel ES 5dr 4WD, 64k, Beige, Alloys, Climate Control, CD Player £7795 / £39 Per Week</p>	<p>05/55 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Club Diesel [120] 5dr 7 Seater, 50k miles, White, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player £4495 / £23 Per Week</p>
<p>09/09 Vauxhall insignia 2.0 Elite Turbo Estate Automatic 50k, Sage Metallic, Alloys, Cream Leather, Climate Control, E/Windows £6995 / £36 Per Week</p>	<p>07/57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.6T 16V SRI 3dr, 68k, Red, Alloys, Two Tone Red and Black Interior, Air Con, CD Player £4295 / £21 Per Week</p>
<p>07/57 Jaguar S-Type 2.7D V6 Diesel SE 4dr, Auto, 79k, Grey, Alloys, Savannah Leather, Heated Seats, Sat-Nav, Climate, CD Player, E/Windows £6995 / £36 Per Week</p>	<p>2004/54 Toyota Rav 4 2.0 XT4 5dr, *ONE OWNER plus supply dealer*, 53k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, FSH £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel 4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £6995 / £36 Per Week</p>	<p>2005/05 Nissan X-Trail 2.2 DCI 136 SVE Diesel 5dr, 125k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Sat-Nav, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, FSH £3495 / £17 Per Week</p>
<p>07/07 Volvo V50 2.5 SE Lux D5 Estate Automatic 67k, Blue, Metallic, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, Climate Control, E/Windows £6495 / £34 Per Week</p>	<p>10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 Plus 43k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, *Only £30 Road Tax* £3495 / £17 Per Week</p>
<p>09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Red, Metallic, Alloys, Air con, CD, Heated ft screen £6295 / £33 Per Week</p>	<p>2002/02 Smart City-Cabriolet Passion Softouch 2dr Automatic, 44k, Colourwash Yellow, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, CD £2195 / £25 Per Week</p>

Finance example: 10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 plus, Cash Price £3495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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DRIVETIME



Is it time to go full winter yet?

As summer is now behind us, should you be thinking about winter tyres, and when is the best time to switch?

With forecasters predicting the worst winter weather in a long time, many drivers are thinking about fitting cold weather tyres to their cars. Should they and, if so, when is the right time to make the change?

First things first: what are winter tyres? They are tyres designed specifically for use in colder temperatures. They are not snow tyres, which have a much more aggressive tread pattern and are for use on 4x4 off-roaders. Winter tyres are made from rubber that allows more movement in the tread pattern than summer tyres, which allows slush and snow to disperse. This design also allows the tyre to warm up more quickly, which helps it provide more grip rather than summer tyres,

which remain brittle at temperatures below 7-degrees centigrade.

That temperature is the key to knowing when to switch to winter tyres from your car's usual summer rubber. It's wise to change before the chilly weather sets in so you are not caught out when the first frosty blasts arrive.

This does not mean you need to worry about driving on winter tyres in warmer conditions, as this type of tyre remains fully functional and completely safe at temperatures of up to 20-degrees centigrade. It gives you a lot of leeway in picking when to swap to winter tyres, but late autumn is a good bet before frost and ice starts to appear in the mornings.

Many drivers will worry about the cost of fitting a second set of tyres when their existing ones have plenty of tread and life in them. While buying winter tyres will add to your running costs in the short-term, it won't cost you any more over the ownership period of the car. This is because you will

be using one set of tyres in the summer and another set in the winter, so the tyre wear is spread across two sets of tyres.

Aside from the cost issue, there is also safety to consider. If you stick with a set of summer tyres for your car all-year round, you greatly increase the risk of a collision on snowy or icy roads. On summer tyres, it takes the average car 43m to stop from 30mph on snow-covered roads, while a car with winter tyres will pull up in 35m. That's a difference of two car lengths.

In winter, the risk of drivers being involved in a collision, regardless of who causes it, increases six-fold. During the harsh winter of 2010, more than three million drivers were involved in a collision of some type and almost half of all drivers reported being in a near-miss.

Given the winter of 2015/16 is predicted to be as bad or worse than that in 2010, swapping to winter tyres in the next few weeks makes a great deal of sense.

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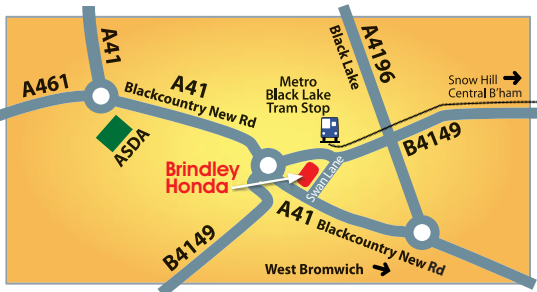
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Remarkable supermini

By John Griffiths

There's a new supermini on Britain's roads but you won't have much difficulty in spotting its origins.

But make no mistake: SEAT's new Ibiza may not look too much different on the outside, but underneath it's a very different story.

After all, the sporty shape was originally conceived by a former chief designer for Lamborghini and its sculpted lines remain modern and distinctive. There's an old saying 'if it ain't broke ...' Instead the company listened to customers and blew its budget for this latest makeover on new, upgraded interiors, a great deal of new technology and the introduction of considerably more efficient engine options, bringing fuel and tax savings for owners.

There's also a new speed sensitive power steering system and much-revised suspension, damper and anti-roll bar settings which have significantly sharpened up handling while also resulting in a smoother, quieter ride. There's a range of customisation options for those who want their car to stand out visually.

Prices start at £10,000, rising to £18,035 which, like for like, still manages to undercut big name rivals which don't have the advantage of offering three body styles - three door coupe, five door or sports tourer (estate). There are seven trim levels and ten engine options - seven petrol and three diesel - six of which are completely new.

So with all that variety, and a new sporting flagship version, the Cupra, coming in a couple of months, the Ibiza has this highly competitive section of the market pretty well covered.

The entry level engine in the cheapest version produces 75ps and 95Nm of torque,

drives smoothly and feels a little more peppy on the road than its 14.3 second 0 to 62mph time suggests. Official average fuel consumption at 54.4mpg wouldn't be out of place with many a smaller, lighter city car.

But the same engine in the turbocharged Ecomotive version is rated at 95ps, with 160Nm of torque which cuts nearly four seconds off the 0 to 62mph sprint time and yet its official fuel average is a diesel-like 68.9mpg and lower CO2 emissions of 94g/km.

The top specification FR version gets even more power, 110ps and a hefty 200Nm of torque, but still with an official fuel average of more than 64mpg and a low 102g/km.

Quicker

The FR, which costs from £15,690 in the three-door model, is also unusual for a 1.0 litre car in that it is available with the proven DSG dual clutch automatic transmission. Quicker and smoother than even a manual gearbox, it also has the option of manual control of the six ratios via paddles behind the steering wheel.

With a 0 to 62mph sprint time of 9.3 seconds, it is remarkably quick for a 1.0 litre car and particularly smooth, thanks to its combination of torque and the DSG transmission.

It also gives the car a relaxed, 'grown up' feel, which is a characteristic of the new Ibiza across the board. It isn't only the engine, as the complete retuning of the suspension and damping means a more compliant and quieter ride with less jarring over bumpy B-roads.

That's an impression reinforced by the new cabin with new soft touch materials and a multi-function colour touchscreen in the centre of the dash. In fact, there's even a new 'Connect' trim level, which comes with a larger, 6.5 inch screen for controlling audio, communications and satnav, while having full inter-connectivity with a smartphone's functions.



Other petrol engine options include 1.2 litre units with 90 and 110Ps, a 1.4TSI with 150Ps of power and 250Nm of torque.

All three diesel engines are 1.4 litres, with outputs of 75, 90 (available with the DSG transmission) and 110PS. The 75Ps version is fitted to the Ecomotive version, with official average fuel consumption of more than 83mpg and a CO2 rating now down to 88g/km: well below the current 100g/km free VED benchmark. The Ecomotive has a very respectable 210Nm of torque, making it very driveable with plenty of pulling power at low revs. It is also significantly quieter than the engine it replaces.

The entry-level E model comes with a centre touch screen media system, four airbags, hill hold control, a tyre monitoring system, stability

control and emergency brake assist, a folding rear bench seat, electric front windows. Next up the S A/C adds air conditioning along with electric adjustable and heated door mirrors, an upgraded audio and hands-free phone system, a split/fold rear seat and remote audio and phone controls on the steering wheel.

Further up the range, you add features such as alloy wheels, a larger touch screen with an improved range of functions, LED running lights, front fog lights with cornering function, cruise control, parking sensors, satnav, and a driver tiredness warning. The FR is the top specification model, with a sporty trim.

The new Ibiza has to hold its own in a crowded and competitive area of the market, but SEAT has hit the ground running with a wide

range of engine, body styles its competitive pricing and relatively low running costs add to the appeal. All the new engines meet the latest EU6 emissions standards (with low CO2 ratings of between 88 and 120g/km) and insurance ratings range from 8E to 18E (out of 50).

And while its looks may not have changed much (colour pack options excluded) SEAT has added a raft of new technology and a more grown-up feel to the car, with significant improvements in refinement.

For many of us price is the deciding factor. But given a choice the FR, with one-litre turbo engine, DSG transmission and a combination of 64mpg and sub 10 seconds sprint time is a pretty remarkable machine even in the world of superminis.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). VAUXHALL Antara 5 Door SUV 2.2 CDTi 163PS Diamond FWD Stop/Start with 16", 17", 18" and 19" wheels, M6: Urban: 37.2 (7.6), Extra-urban: 51.4 (5.5), Combined: 44.1 (6.4). CO₂ emissions: 167g/km.

Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

Lexus is a smooth operator

By Sharon Walters

There is no question that rock 'n' roll is great music, but the term means something much less fun when used to describe the quality of ride you get from your car. Lexus has designed and equipped its new RX to put an end to rocking and rolling, whether you are travelling on the highway, or driving on rougher off-road surfaces.

The new luxury SUV's active suspension performance moves to a higher level, securing a smoother and more stable ride and a more rewarding driving experience. The system design has been updated and customers can specify an Adaptive Variable Suspension system for sportier performance. Ride and handling have also been

improved thanks to the engineering of a significantly more rigid vehicle body. The new RX features an updated version of the suspension system used in the current model: MacPherson struts at the front and a rear trailing arm and double-wishbone set-up, with components fine-tuned for extra stability when cornering and improved handling overall. Changes include a larger front anti-roll bar, which gives both a crisper turning response and better ride quality.

Adjusts

Sportier performance can be gained from Lexus's Adaptive Variable Suspension (AVS), a standard feature of the F Sport and Premier grade models. This automatically adjusts the damping force delivered by the shock absorbers at each wheel in response to the quality of the road surface and the driver's inputs.

For example, on rough roads, the system switches to a more compliant setting to maintain comfort. When driving through



.....
‘Panel joints have been made stronger using high-tech body adhesives and laser screw welding’
.....

a bend, the damping force is firmer, to reduce body roll and give the RX more performance-focused, flatter cornering.

As well as advanced suspension tuning and technology, the new RX reaps the benefits of having a more rigid body – a fundamental quality that has a positive impact on its handling, comfort and cabin quietness, as well as providing more robust crash protection.

Lexus has achieved this with innovative techniques, including a new ring-frame construction method to create stronger

sections around the front and rear doors. Panel joints have been made stronger using high-tech body adhesives and laser screw welding, and high-tensile-strength steel has been used at strategic points throughout, including the A and B-pillars and underbody crossmembers. Extra spot welds around the rear of the body also contribute to the car's strength and handling stability.

The new RX is available to order now, with first deliveries to UK customers from January.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 85g/km.*
Personal contract hire offer on Viva SE 1.0i 75PS in Blue Ray, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1,380, then 35 monthly rentals of £115. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 24,000 over 36 months charged at 7.24ppm. Personal contract hire offer on ADAM JAM 1.2i 70PS in Saturday White Fever, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1,885 then 35 monthly rentals of £145. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 24,000 over 36 months charged at 7.31ppm. Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa 5dr Energy 1.2i 70PS (a/c) in Shiny Rock, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1,908 then 35 monthly rentals of £159. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 24,000 over 36 months charged at 6.64ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and Ts&Cs contact your local Retailer. You will not own the car. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Offers available on orders or registrations between 8 October and 15 December 2015. *MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Correct at time of going to press.

Marque focused on G57

By Sharon Walters

Ginetta has proven itself as the manufacturer of the fastest LMP3 car in the world. Now the Yorkshire marque turns its attentions to a new-for-2016 car; the Ginetta G57.

With a class first and second in the inaugural European Le Mans Series driver and teams championship, Ginetta has been the dominant force throughout the inaugural LMP3 season, taking a clean sweep of class victories.

A fantastic partnership between Ginetta, the ACO and ELMS throughout the development and delivery of the LMP3 class allowed all parties to make a success of the inaugural season, one which will undoubtedly continue into 2016. With its position as a rising star in sports prototypes cemented, the Yorkshire manufacturer now switches its

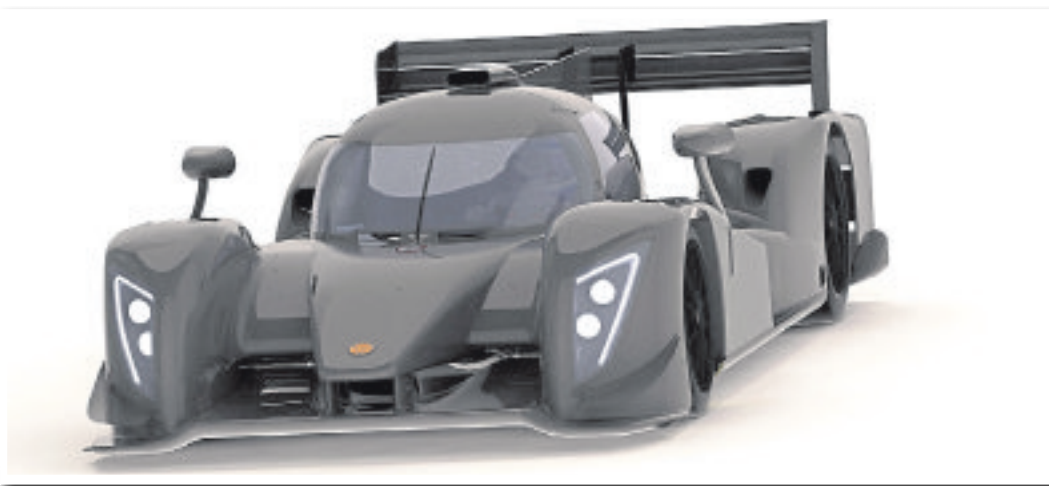
attention to the ongoing development of the new Ginetta G57.

Designed to increase export of the British brand, which already stands at circa 50 per cent of all sales, the Ginetta G57 represents a cost-effective prototype, eligible for sports car competition across the globe.

Suited

With a view to complement the already established Ginetta formulae, which includes four single-make championships, a number of franchised European series in Italy and Sweden, plus a large presence in the USA with the Ginetta G55, the Ginetta Prototype will be suited to all levels of driver grade, experience and ambition.

Comprising a Chevrolet LS3 engine with 580bhp, the Ginetta G57 will offer a robust drivetrain, providing unrivalled performance with additional power and heightened value for money. In addition, the car will feature an unrestricted aerodynamic package, delivering some of the quickest lap times for cars of this genre.



'Ginetta G57 represents a cost-effective prototype, eligible for sports car competition across the globe'

Lawrence Tomlinson, chairman of Ginetta explained; "European Le Mans Series provided the perfect platform to further introduce the Ginetta brand to the European marketplace, and we worked closely with the ACO to ensure both the car and the series were a success.

"As a business, we must now continue towards our goal of increasing export, which inevitably means creating a new, and significantly faster, car which is eligible for competition on a number of different global platforms."

Ewan Baldry, Ginetta technical director added; "We've had a great season with ELMS, but Team LNT had only ever planned to contest one full season. For 2016, we will continue to support our customers who remain within the series, but as a manufacturer, our attentions now turn to the Ginetta G57."

The Ginetta Prototype has already been accepted for competition in VdeV and various open sports car championships. Team LNT also claimed a win and a second place in the previous two VdeV events.

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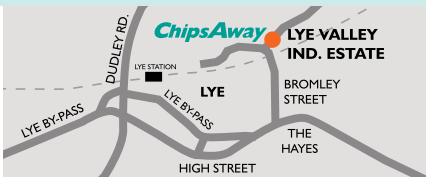
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DRIVETIME



Free car insurance offered

Vauxhall retailer, Stourbridge Motor House, is helping motorists enjoy the thrill of owning a new car with a special insurance deal available on selected vehicles.

Young drivers (18 to 20 years) can take advantage of £99 first year insurance, provided by ingenie, on the new Corsa Limited Edition when an ingenie black box is fitted. On the same model, those aged 21 and over can get free insurance, through Vauxhall Insurance*.

"The Corsa is one of our most-loved cars, especially among young drivers so we're really pleased to be helping young and mature drivers alike with this insurance offer, and getting even more motorists in Stourbridge on the

road," said Michael Casey, general manager at Stourbridge Motor House.

As well as this great offer, Vauxhall is running a Scrapage Allowance scheme when customers trade in their old motor. This means a 21-year-old customer could benefit from the £2,000 allowance, which would result in a £1,190 finance deposit contribution and payment of just £193 per month over 36 months for a Corsa three-door 1.2-litre Limited Edition, which includes one year's free insurance and one year's free OnStar featuring emergency response notification, stolen vehicle recovery technology and 4G Wi-Fi**.

Vauxhall's Scrapage Allowance scheme helps customers take advantage of a £2,000 (including VAT) scrapage trade-in against most new

passenger cars in its range. To qualify for the scheme, customers must have owned their trade-in vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. There is no upper age limit for cars and any manufacturer's vehicle will be accepted.

To find out more about this offer or any other information about Stourbridge Motor House, visit the retailer at High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4DG. Alternatively, call 01384 447970 or go online to www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk

*Terms and conditions apply visit: <http://www.vauxhall.co.uk/insurance>

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8 Motoring

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KIA Cerato 1.6, 06 plate, MoT Sept 2016, 90,000 miles, fish, EW, CD player, AC CL, alloy wheels, one owner, £995 ono. 07956 670563.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call. **ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167**

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ATTRACTIVE solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent 25+ for no strings discreet fun. **ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4693 Box 419701**

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LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572**

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FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

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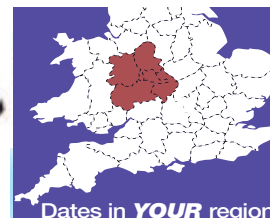
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PROFESSIONAL male, 41, own business, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

SUBMISSIVE 44year old WLTm dominant female 25-30 years who enjoys role play with friendship and maybe possible relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084114**

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Wellington boot Town into touch with three

Wellington Am 3 Tipton 1

TIPTON Town remain in the West Midlands Premier basement after visitors Wellington Amateurs added to their woes with a 3-1 win.

Languishing only one place from the bottom of the table, and currently winless at home, Tipton showed few signs of that situation improving.

Of great concern, particularly to Manager, Paul Totney, was the sheer inability of the Black Country club to mount any telling threat upon their visitors in such a vital fixture and, with virtually half the season's games behind them, a tally of just 4 points simply tells it's own story. In the 18th minute slipshod defending by Tipton allowed Gavin Davies to open the visitors' account when scrambling the ball home for an untidy goal.

Tipton suddenly came to life on 24 minutes, two fine efforts from Matt Weyman and Marvin Whitter ricocheting to safety before Jon Crawford was then superbly tackled in the act of shooting.

Wellington weathered the short period of home pressure, and on 38 minutes a sweeping move involving Sam Groucher and Tom Bradley set up Ben Parker to make it 2-0 to the Shropshire outfit.

Right on half-time a good counter-attack by Tipton gave them hope when, in a packed goal-mouth, Ravi Sangha reacted first to halve the deficit.

Tipton wastefully spurned a fine opportunity to level the scores in the 64th minute when Whitter's shot was blocked.

The visitors killed off the match three minutes from time when Davies drove home his second.

TD is beaten soundly by a high five

Coventry 5 Team Dudley 0

TEAM Dudley ended up soundly beaten in their first game for nearly a month.

But the students stuck to their task against a higher-ranked team in the Birmingham FA Saturday Vase.

Coventry took the lead after 18 minutes when a penalty was awarded for a foul by Kaighlem Duncan and Jack Dobson sent Liam Jones the wrong way and opened the scoring.

It was the first of three goals in a six-minute spell that took the match away from Team Dudley and two further goals in the second half sealed the Midland League Division One side's passage to the next round.

TD's Myles Nettleford was denied a late consolation goal.

Teenager Jade rides to success



Jade aboard Oscar as they rode to success

A 14-YEAR partnership has seen Jade Clarke and horse Oscar claim first place in the British Veteran Horse Dressage Championships.

Clarke, 23, of Kinver, Stourbridge, and 17-year-old Oscar rode their way to the winning rosette in the medium section of the British national championships at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire.

It has been a period of success for Clarke, who only took up equestrian riding in 2010, having also taken up a full-time role as director at Bren-

nan Equestrian, under the guidance of her former trainer Sue Brennan.

Much of Clarke's recent success has been tied to Brennan, who played a key role in introducing her to dressage.

The stable manager said: "Jade came to us in January 2010 just as a normal all-rounder with no competing experience.

"Oscar is a real cheeky chappy. Jade has recently been given directorship at the company and it's through her hard work and dedica-

tion." Clarke, who studied Public Services at college as she attempted to forge a career in the police force, revealed she 'couldn't believe' she had become a national champion and believes both she and Oscar had benefitted from finding the sport.

"I would never ever think that I'd be medium champion at a national championships," said Clarke, who is now based at the Kinver stables after her parents moved down to Somerset.

"But I'm aiming even higher."

Stour take their time to get going

Stourbridge 39 Tynedale 11

THE scoreline reveals little of the huge swing in Stour's performance as this game progressed.

Misfiring early on in both attack and defence it took half an hour for them to wake up and get their noses in front on the score-board.

Outside half Chris Scott had a day to forget with the kicking tee, six of his eight goal kicks flying wide, but by the end Stour were dominating possession and producing attacking rugby of a quality that their Northumbrian opponents simply couldn't contain.

First blood went to Tynedale when centre Jack Harrison broke through Stour's defences to set up a try in the corner for winger Ben Duncan.

Stour looked to hit back, a turnover setting up a counter attack that put winger Josh Tringham clear down the left wing but his offload just eluded unmarked fullback Rod Petty.

Redemption was to come shortly afterwards though when a well-executed set of forward drives and half-break by scrum half Toby Handley pulled in the cover and left Petty with a stroll-in.

Barged

Tynedale hit back with two penalty kicks from centre Ash Smith, but Stour seized the lead on the half hour when flanker Nigel Mukarati barged over from short range.

With the half time whistle imminent a patient build-up through a well-executed set of phases saw flanker Joe Carpenter blast through Tynedale's stretched defences.

With the coaching staff's choice half time words ringing in their ears Stour set to work, the pack turning the screw in the scrum to force a penalty. Scott's effort flew wide but his break moments later set up another try-scoring opportunity fumbled inches short of the tryline, but the visitors struggling to clear their lines they conceded the bonus-point try to lock forward Chris Depper after a well-executed catch & drive lineout drill.

Play ebbed and flowed, both sides maintaining a high tempo before hooker Billy Harding was worked clear down the right touchline, his inside pass producing Mukarati's second try.

Just back from a spell cooling his heels in the sin bin, winger Ash Elvers grabbed the next try



Stourbridge centre Jame Otutaha runs into the Tynedale defence. *Pic Rob Nicholls*

after Stour patiently retained the ball and played the phases from the restart, gaps appearing in the tiring Tynedale defences through one of which replacement lock forward Chris Roddy was worked through deep in the Stour's half.

He made 30 metres before drawing the final defender and fed Elvers who'd run an inside support line.

A late revival by the visitors was comfortably con-

tained by the Stour defences, but further scoring opportunities appeared to have dried up until the dying seconds when another long-range attack saw replacement back rower James Rodley blast through, Carpenter and Elvers keeping alive a move finished off in the corner by replacement threequarter Joe Bridger.

A bonus point win that puts Stour up to 4th in the Nat. 2N table. Next week Stour travel to Chester.

Spotlight turns on young club golfers

THE achievements of dozens of golfing youngsters were recognised in an annual awards ceremony.

The Darren Prosser Golf Academy, run by the former Walker Cup golfer and European Tour pro, handed out awards to its promising young stars.

Based at Kingswinford Golf Centre, the academy launched two years ago, with the ceremony held at Dudley Golf Club in Rowley Regis.

More than 130 people attended to see order of merit awards handed out to around 50 youngsters aged seven to 15.

Winners included James Ilsley for the order of merit elite junior programme. He finished a couple of points ahead of Joel Bradley.

Connor Leeman, Lewis Taylor, Sam Green, Ewan Humphries and Niamh Chambers also picked up order of merit awards, while Jack Green and Green received trophies for winning the club's annual tournament. Lewis Drew was honoured for a hole in one.

Dudley-born Prosser said the academy had gone from strength to strength in the past two years.

"It's getting bigger and more popular all the time," he said. "We're looking at taking on another professional next year.

"It's a big passion of mine. I broke my wrist two-and-a-half years ago and stopped playing for 14 months. I was head pro at Halfpenny Green and then this job came up at the perfect time.

"I've committed myself to doing more teaching."

Anyone interested in joining can email prosser.d@sky.com

Bailey proves too hot for Wren's Nest

St Martin's 4 Wren's Nest 1

WREN'S Nest were unable to cope with St Martin's hot-shot Karl Bailey as they slumped to a 4-1 defeat in Oswestry in the West Midlands Division One.

Bailey opened his account on 21 minutes before seeing another effort tipped onto the upright by keeper Aaron Morris less than 15 minutes later.

Wren's Nest levelled through Alistair Brown's header on 51 minutes.

But the Saints restored their lead on the hour when Bailey crossed for Dan Graham to convert.

Sam Thomas then set up Bailey to make it 3-1 on 75 minutes before the striker sealed his hat-trick deep in injury time from Sam Nash's pass.

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Running club tackles cross country trails

IT was back to cross country action this week for athletes from Dudley King-swinford Running Club as the blue hoops fielded a men and women's team in the Midlands Cross Country Championships in Wolverhampton.

With the women covering five miles and the men a further lap giving them a total of seven it was a muddy and testing afternoon.

Lorna Hulme was first back for the ladies team in 15th place in 35.27, Tracy Alderson, making her cross country club debut, took 31st place in 38.21, Lynn Sprague was 61st in 42.23, Karen Doy65th in 42.59, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker finished next in 43.07, Sally McConville 83rd in 47.29, Sam Hemmings 89th in 48.23 and Charlotte Tonks came home in 50.35 to take 96th.

The ladies were placed 7th overall behind the winners Birmingham Running & Triathlon Club, Notts AC and Wolves & Bilston.

With the men going off an hour later it was down to Ben Foster to bring them home in an excellent 10th place in 41.46 with Matt Biggs in 23rd in 42.59, James Wright 39th in 45.11, Darran Bishop 59th in 47.15, Dave Norman 69th in 48.28 and Mark Homer in 50.00 making up the scorers.

Simon Blizzard was only five seconds adrift finishing in 50.05 in 81st having started fast, Mark Judge finished 91st in 51.25, Kieran Putt was 98th in 52.04, Stephen Parr outsprinted Graham Wildgoose to just get his nose in front on the line with the pair finishing in 105th in 52.29 and 106th in 52.32 respectively.

Pete Hood was 109th in 52.55, Andy Weaver finished in 57.19 to take 122nd and John Andrews was 128th in 59.43, the men's team taking 6th place with the medals going to a strong Notts AC team, Cannock and Staffs and Tipton Harriers.

Ikeme looking likely to be fit for match after cramps attack

WOLVES keeper Carl Ikeme is expected to be fit for Saturday's visit of MK Dons despite being nearly forced off with debilitating cramps against Ipswich.

Ikeme played in Swaziland and Nigeria during the international break and it appears the long travelling may have taken its toll.

However, Emiliano Martinez is a doubt as he bids to return from a thigh injury.

Boss Kenny Jackett said of his goalkeepers: "The physios are very reluctant to put a time frame on Emi because they're worried about a recurrence.

"He will be outside working this week and we'll see how he goes." With Carl it was an unusual one with him cramping up in calves and hamstrings.

"He said he felt it in the first half. We put that down to the travelling he did before the game.

"A week at home now and by Saturday I'm sure he'll have ironed out those problems and his body will have recovered back to 100 per cent."

Fellow goalkeeper Aaron McCarey is now eligible to play again.

Sykes is flooded out of Wales rally



Richard Sykes in action in the rally. Pic Songsport

STOURBRIDGE rally driver Richard Sykes experienced the highs and lows of rallying when he was forced to retire his Citroën DS3 from the National section of Britain's World Rally Championship round Wales Rally GB while in a top ten overall position.

Sykes and co-driver Emma Morrison were rubbing shoulders with the stars of the World Rally Championship.

Awful weather conditions greeted the crews as they headed for the first of the three stages making up the opening day, Hafren forest. Sykes' event didn't get off to a good start as the fan

Rally driving

switch failed and the windscreen steamed up. The loss of visibility caused Sykes to hit a log and further time was lost having to stop to clean the screen.

Stage 2, the hugely popular Sweet Lamb, was going well until the car went through a water-splash and then misfired for the rest of the stage. Sykes was flying in stage 3 and ended the day 21st overall out of 90 starters.

Sykes' event was over when he engine got flooded with water.

AWOL striker Enobakhare back training

AWOL striker Bright Enobakhare has ended his self-imposed absence from Wolves and will return to training this week.

The teenager had failed to get in contact with the club for almost a week.

Boss Kenny Jackett admitted earlier on Monday that no-one knew where the 17-year-old was – amid fears he had fled to his native Nigeria.

But Wolves finally made contact with him yesterday afternoon, and officials met with Enobakhare, who agreed to return to training. He was last at Compton Park on November 11. Wolves spoke to Enobakhare on the phone last week and were given the impression he was set to return to Africa.

It had been claimed Enobakhare turned up late for training and took umbrage to being fined, leading to his absence, although Wolves denied this.

Any disciplinary action for his prolonged absence is not being made public.

In a statement, Wolves said that while Enobakhare had initially been granted a few days of compassionate leave, the club had since been expecting him to return to Compton Park.

"The 17-year-old youngster had been absent for almost two weeks due to a family issue, but has remained in the local area," the statement continued. "Wolves now consider the matter to be closed, and ongoing support and discussion with Enobakhare will remain confidential."

Jackett said ahead of Enobakhare being found: "From my own point of view, I have sympathy. To be 17 and in this country with little parental support, it's very tough. It is an unusual situation. But then I don't think I've had many 17-year-olds in my first-team squad that have only had a couple of years in the country as well."

Fans flock to snap up FA Cup tickets

FANS descended on the War Memorial Ground as tickets went on sale for Stourbridge's FA Cup second round clash with Eastleigh.

The Glassboys will be aiming to make the third round of the competition, where teams from the Premier League enter, for the first time in their history.

After memorable days in the competition so far this season against local rivals Kidderminster Harriers at Amblecote and on the south coast at Dover, supporters rushed to ensure they had their spot booked for the tie on December 5.

The BBC will host their Football Focus FA Cup special from the ground.

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HERO HAWLEY GETS BRACE

Marine 1 Stourbridge 3

THE Glassboys earned a deserved win on Merseyside.

Having failed to pick up points in their previous two League fixtures, Gary Hackett and his men were desperate to record a win.

There were two changes Justin Richards and Stuart Pierpoint were replaced by Ben Billingham and Chris Knight.

Stourbridge began on the front foot, with Matt Dodd twice seeing efforts deflected for corners, and Karl Hawley having the ball in the net only to be ruled offside.

But that did not deter the Glassboys marksman, who opened the scoring with just nine minutes played as he touched in Chris Lait's cross from close range.

With the confidence of a goal under his belt, Hawley was involved again on 15 minutes, but his shot from distance flew harmlessly over the bar, before Marine began to force their way into the game, Luke Holden hitting a free kick over, and then Danny Mitchley producing a good low save from Lewis Solly.

Poked

Good work by Dodd and Kris Green down the right saw the latter tee up Tom Tonks for a deft poked effort that clipped the far post before settling in the back of the net, to give the former Halesowen player his first goal in Stourbridge colours.

With that cushion behind them Stourbridge went looking for a third goal as the second period got under way, and almost had it just three minutes in as Dodd crossed and a half-clearance allowed Dan Scarr to get in a shot that was parried by Cooper before Billingham's deflected follow-up was cleared off the line.

There were rapid yellow cards for Mitchley and Codling as the home side battled for a way back into the game, and Alan Burton was denied when his shot was blocked at the expense of a corner, but Stourbridge seemed the most likely to add to the scoreline.

However, after Mitchley had fired wide with his 74th minute effort, it was substitute Chad Whyte who ensured the match was far from over as he slotted in just a minute later.

It was Hawley who got the final score.



Glassboy Karl Hawley, centre, proves the hero for Stourbridge in their battle with Marine

Graham may yet prove to be golden

Ipswich 2 Wolves 2

THE considerable Bakary Sako-shaped hole on Wolves' left wing has been filled by no fewer than seven players at one time or another this season.

With Jordan Graham, the eighth, you wonder if the part has finally been filled.

Jackett has been incredibly reluctant to blood former Villa

youngster Graham, despite some impressive performances for the under-21s.

The 20-year-old was snubbed for the pre-season tour of France, then played with the first XI for August's final pre-season friendly at Doncaster but, despite impressing and scoring, wasn't even on the bench when the league cam-

paign kicked off. Perhaps the move was psychological mind-play in a bid to keep Graham honest, and his feet on the ground.

If so, it has worked. He wowed during a prolific loan spell at League Two side Oxford and has returned eager to finally make his mark at Wolves..

Domino's

Stourbridge Industrial Estate, Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge DY8 1JN

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